



“I Am European”: Migration Stories & Facts for the 21st Century

The Views of Young Europeans on Migration



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Introduction

This analysis discusses the awareness, understanding and attitudes towards the migration of people in the age group of 15-35 in eight countries – the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia.

This report is drafted as input for a **social media campaign** and other awareness activities on migration within the project "I Am European" in the framework of "Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education in the European Union DEAR".

In November 2019, a three-year project "I Am European": Migration Stories & Facts for the 21st Century was launched by a consortium of 7 partner organisations. It is an EU-funded project with a positive impact on achieving **a more open, inclusive, and peaceful culture towards migrants and refugees in Europe**.

The main approach is awareness-raising among **youth** supported by engaging **young journalists** in creating balanced and fact-based media content and **multipliers** with global educational activities on **migration themes**. As the main result, we expect to see **more solidarity and tolerance in Europe**.

The data extracted and analysed derive from European cross-sectional surveys – Eurobarometer surveys of 2017 and 2019, European Social Surveys of 2014 and 2016, and European Quality of Life Surveys of 2011 and 2016. Descriptive data analysis and regression analysis were used to answer the research questions in Chapter 1.

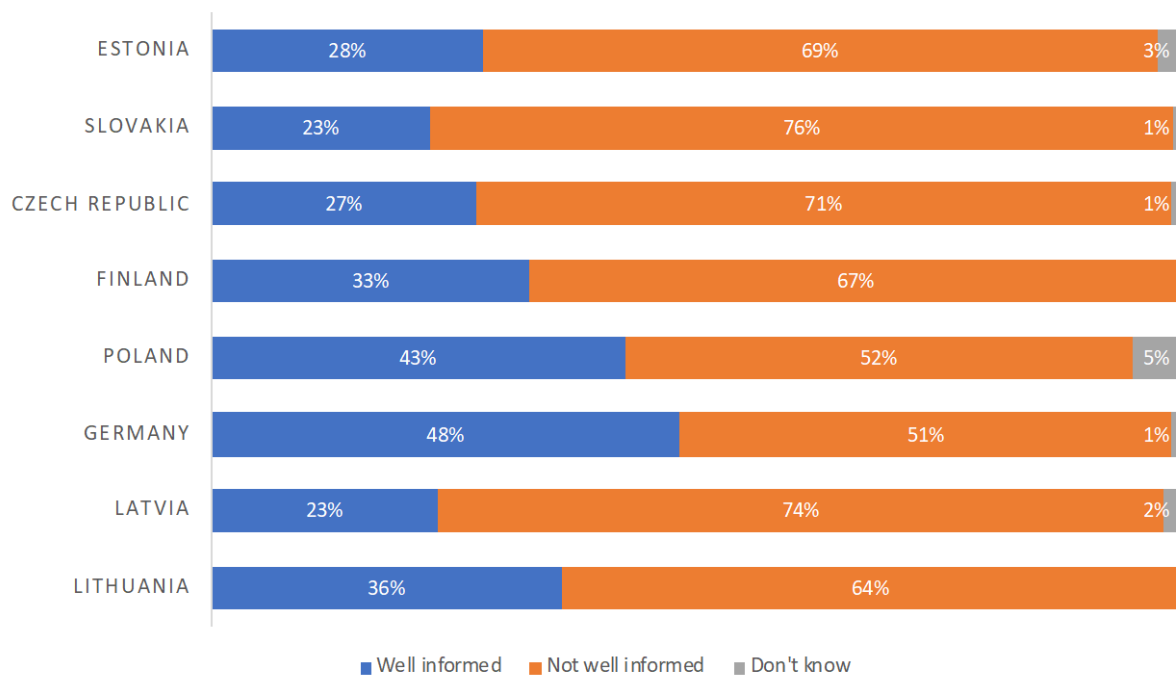
In addition, interviews (focus groups and semi-structured interviews) with people aged 15-20 and 21-35 were organised in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Poland, and Slovakia to collect new data on the views of young people on migration. The results of these research projects are presented in Chapter 2.

1. Quantitative Data from the European Surveys on Migration

How aware are young people about migration?

The Eurobarometer 2017 survey focused on immigration rather than migration in general. The data collected show that young people aged 15-35 in all eight countries are mostly poorly informed about immigration and integration matters (Figure 1). 15-35-year olds in Slovakia and Lithuania are the least likely to be informed about immigration and integration matters (76% and 74% respectively do not think that they are well informed) whereas in Germany and in Poland almost half of the target group think that they are well informed on the subject (48% and 43% respectively).

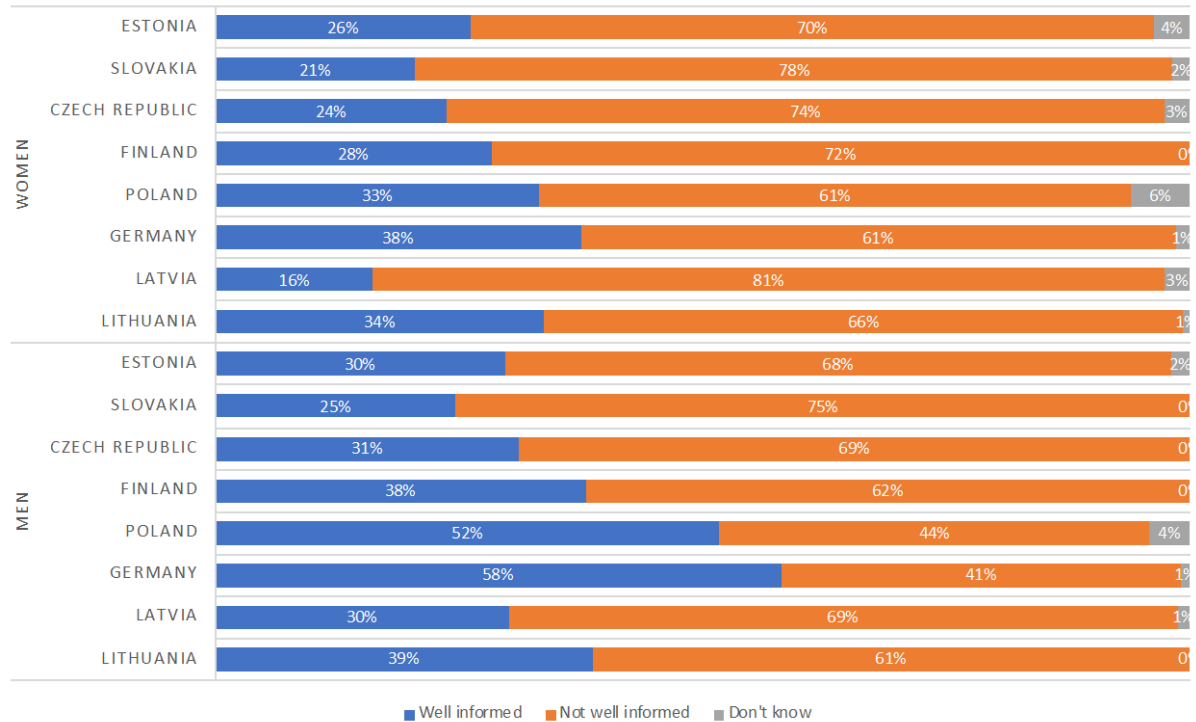
Figure 1. Overall, to what extent do you think that you are well informed or not about immigration and integration matters?



Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

Looking more in depth into how informed 15-35-year old women and men are about immigration and integration matters in the selected countries, it seems that overall men are more informed compared to women (Figure 2). The difference between genders is most noticeable in Germany, Poland, and Latvia.

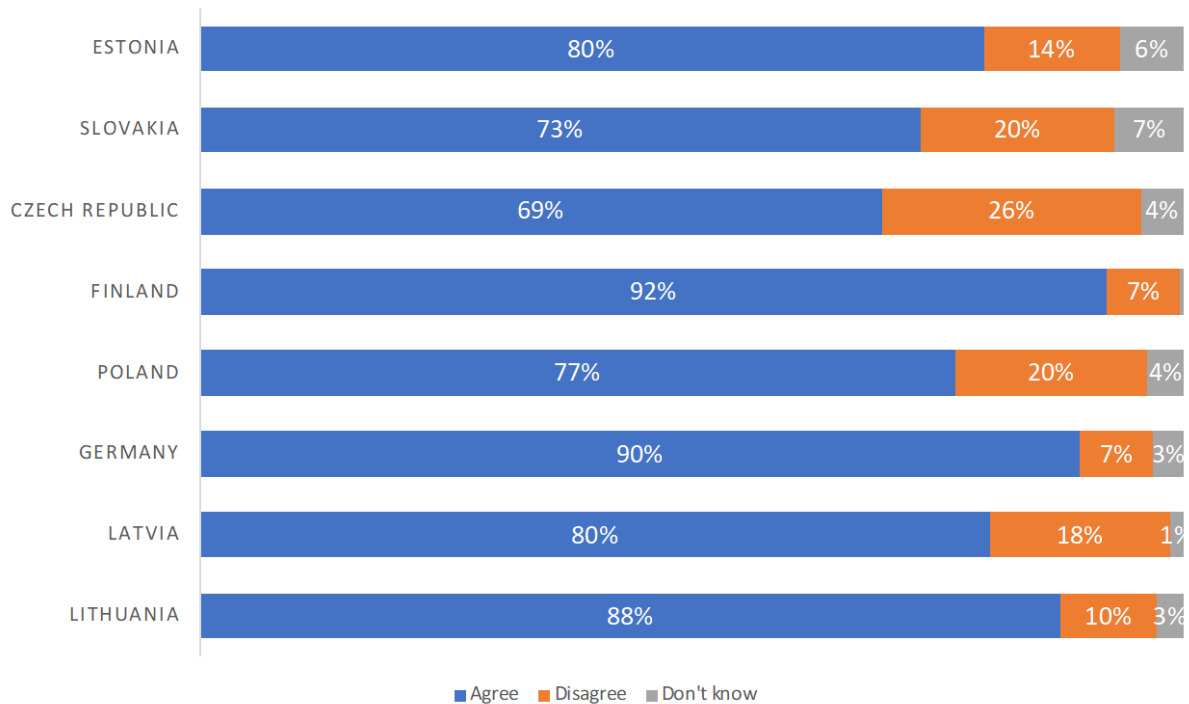
Figure 2. Overall, to what extent do you think that you are well informed or not about immigration and integration matters by gender.



Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

The majority of the 15-35-year olds in all eight countries agree that more information on immigrants and immigration would help the receiving community in welcoming and integrating immigrants (Figure 3). This highlights that young people see the importance of raising awareness of immigration and that communication could play a key factor in helping to integrate immigrants into their new society.

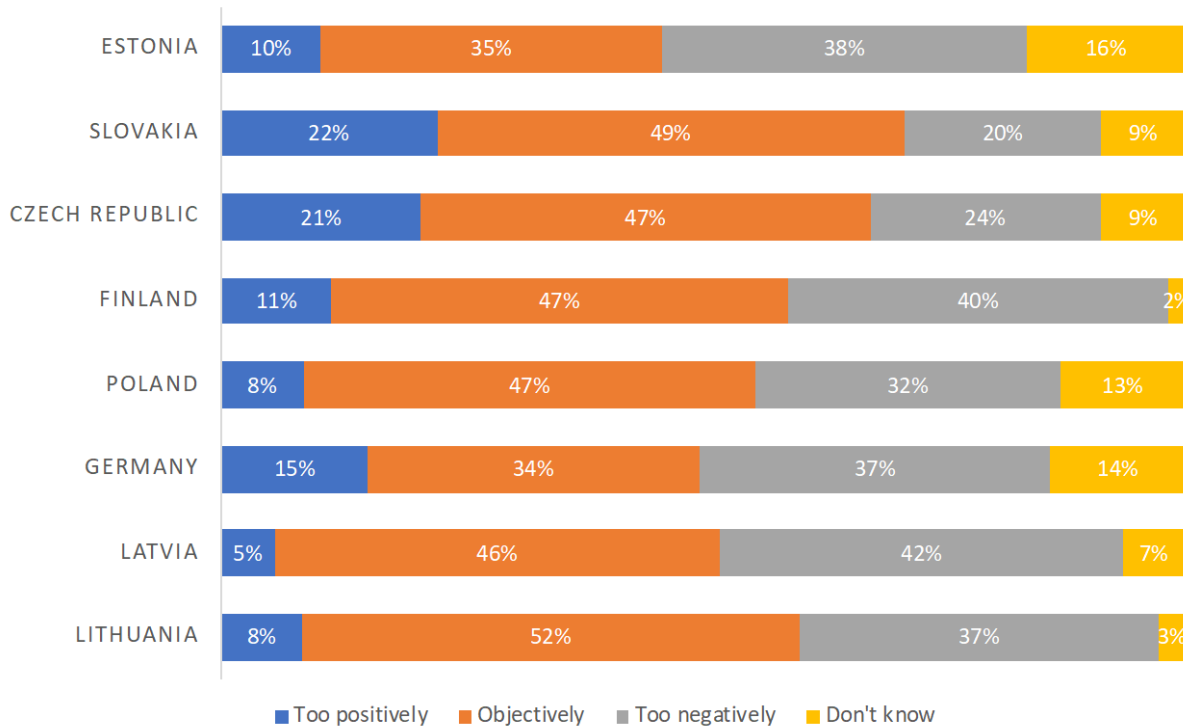
Figure 3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that better preparing the local community by providing information about immigrants and immigration would support integration of immigrants?



Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

In all eight countries, up to 20-42% of 15-35-year olds find that the media does not portray immigrants objectively (Figure 4). In all countries at least one third, and in five countries nearly half, of young people trust the media to portray immigrants objectively. The highest belief of young people in media as objective on immigration matters is in Lithuania – 52% think that the media presents immigration issues in an objective manner. Young people in Latvia and in Finland feel that the media is most likely presenting matters related to immigrants **too negatively** (42% and 40%, respectively), whereas only 20% of young people in Slovakia feel that way. Slovakia and the Czech Republic have the highest shares of 15-35-year olds who think that the media presents immigration issues **too positively** (22% and 21%, respectively). A considerable share of young people in Estonia (16%), Germany (14%), and Poland (13%) found it difficult to assess (answering “don’t know”) whether media presents immigration matters objectively or not.

Figure 4. When matters concerning immigrants are presented in the media, do you think that they are presented too positively, in an objective way, or too negatively?



Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

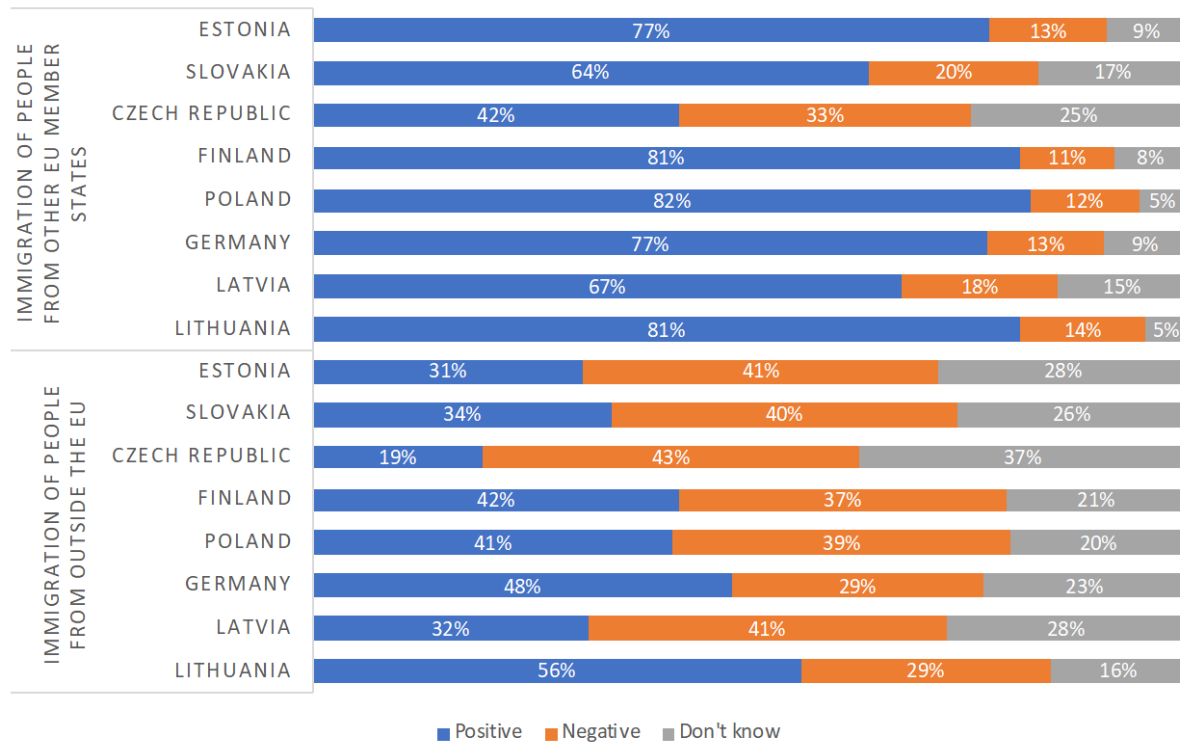
Are there differences between countries in how their population perceives migration?

The public's perception of migration is reflected by several different indicators. To create a cross-country comparison, the general feelings towards immigration, perceived tensions between different racial and ethnic groups, acceptance of immigrants, and perception of immigration as a problem or an opportunity were analysed.

General feelings towards immigration

In all selected countries, the immigration of people from other EU Member States evokes more positive than negative feelings for 15-35-years-old people (Figure 5). However, immigration from outside the EU evokes more negative than positive feelings. It is also evident that young people are a lot more unsure (answering "don't know") about their feelings towards immigration from outside the EU than intra-EU immigration.

Figure 5. Please tell me whether each of the following statements evokes a positive or negative feeling for you.



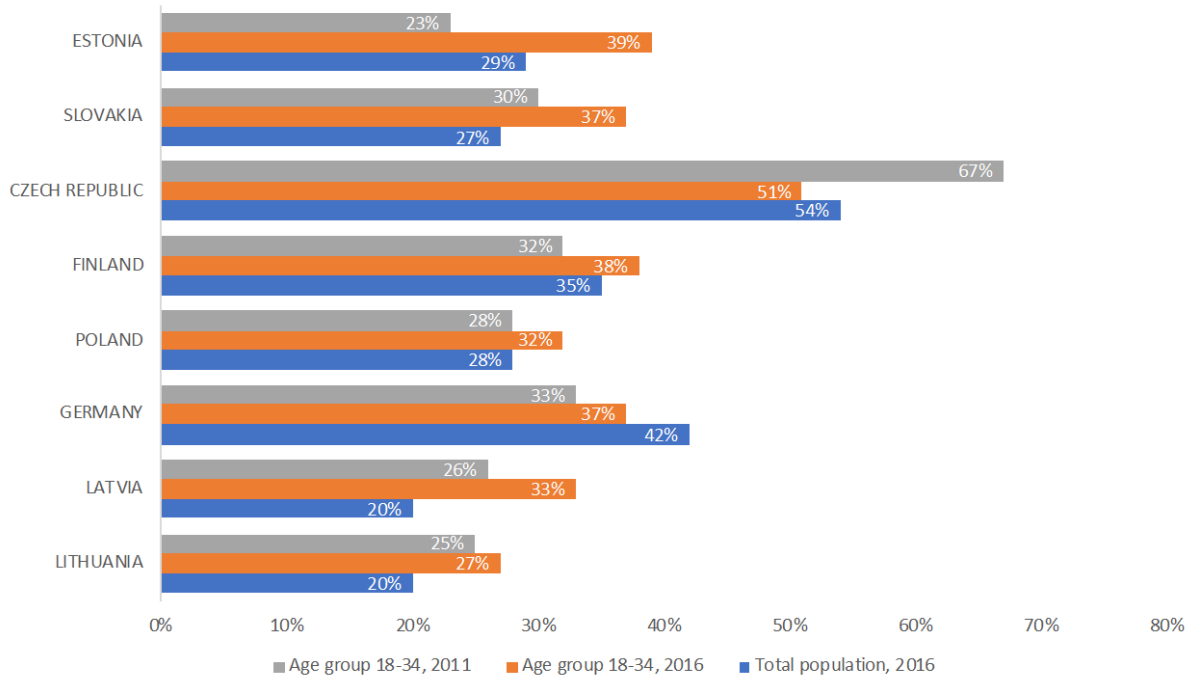
Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Perception of tensions between different racial and ethnic groups

The perception of migration in different countries can be measured and compared by analysing the perceived tensions between different racial and ethnic groups. The data from European Quality of Life Surveys show that there are considerable differences regarding this matter. Young people in the Czech Republic perceive the most tensions (51% perceive a lot of tensions between different racial and ethnic groups), and young people in Lithuania perceive the least tensions (27% perceive a lot of tensions) (Figure 6).

In most countries (with the exception of the Czech Republic and Germany), young people perceive considerably more tensions between different racial and ethnic groups than the total population. This is especially evident from the data on Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Slovakia. Moreover, from 2011 to 2016 the perception of tensions between different racial and ethnic groups among the age group 18 to 34 had risen in all of the focus countries except the Czech Republic, that witnessed a considerable decrease with 67% of the target group perceiving a lot of tension in 2011 to 51% in 2016. However, the youth in the Czech Republic still perceive more tensions between racial and ethnic groups than the youth in any of the other countries. From 2011 to 2016 the perceived racial and ethnic tensions increased the most in Estonia (by 16 percentage points), in Slovakia, and in Latvia (by 7 percentage points).

Figure 6. In your opinion, how much tension is there between each of the following groups in this country? e) Different racial and ethnic groups. Answered: a lot of tension.

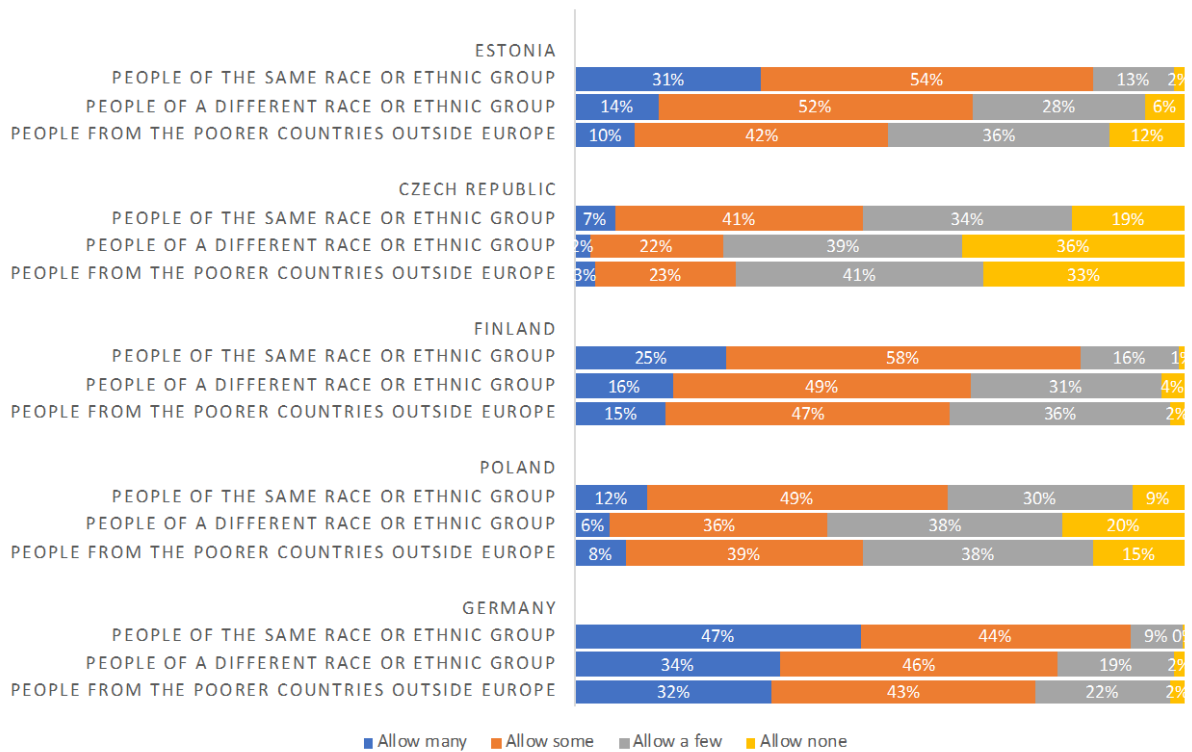


Source: European Quality of Life Survey, 2011 and 2016

Acceptance of immigrants

The attitudes of young people towards migration is also reflected by people's opinion on whether their country should welcome immigrants from different racial and ethnic groups, and immigrants from poorer countries. This can be analysed using the data of the European Social Survey 2018. The survey, however, did not include Latvia, Lithuania, or Slovakia. The data revealed that the youth in Germany perceive immigrants more positively than 18-34-year olds in other countries and the youth in the Czech Republic are the least accepting of immigrants, especially if they are of a different racial or ethnic origin. In all countries, the attitudes towards accepting immigrants from the same race or ethnic group as the country's majority population are more positive than towards immigrants from a different racial or ethnic group, or people from poorer countries outside Europe (Figure 7).

Figure 7. What extent do you think [country] should allow different types of immigrants to come and live here?

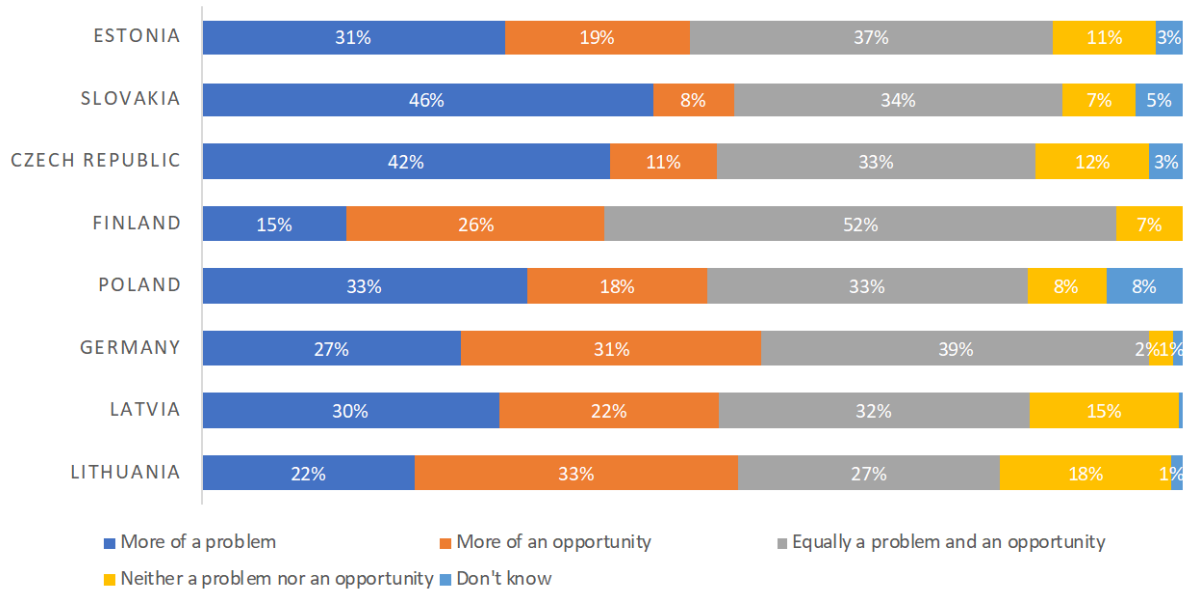


Source: European Social Survey, 2018

Immigration as a problem or an opportunity

Understanding people’s opinions on migration and how they perceive it in different countries can be measured by asking whether they see immigration as a problem or opportunity. The Eurobarometer 2017 data showed that young people aged 15-35 see immigration more as a problem than opportunity in Slovakia (46% a problem vs 8% an opportunity), the Czech Republic (42% vs 11%), Poland (33% vs 18%), Estonia (31% vs 19%), and Latvia (30% vs 22%). Young people in Lithuania, Germany and Finland are more likely to see immigration more as an opportunity than a problem for their country (Figure 8).

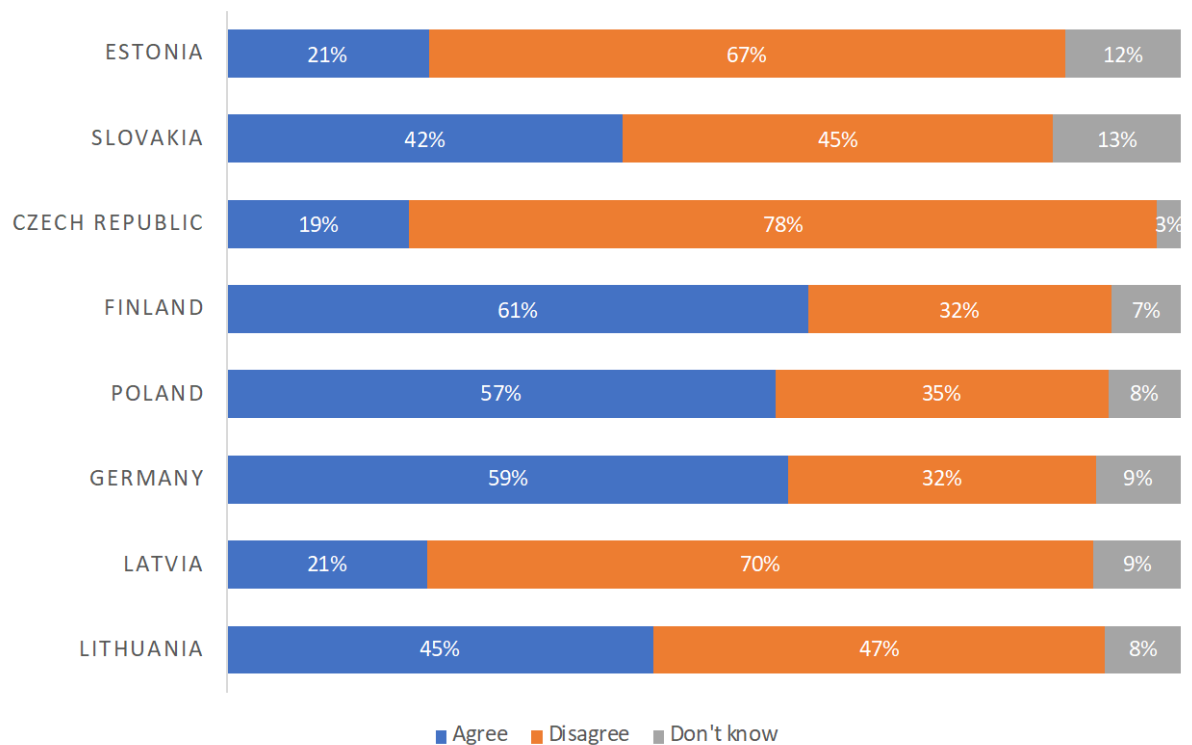
Figure 8. Generally speaking, do you think immigration from outside the EU is more of a problem or more of an opportunity for your country today?



Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

Most 15-35-year olds in Finland (61%), Germany (59%), and Poland (57%) agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. Young people in the Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Slovakia are more sceptical and are more likely to disagree with the statement that immigrants contribute a lot to their country (Figure 9).

Figure 9. To what extent do you agree or disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to your country?



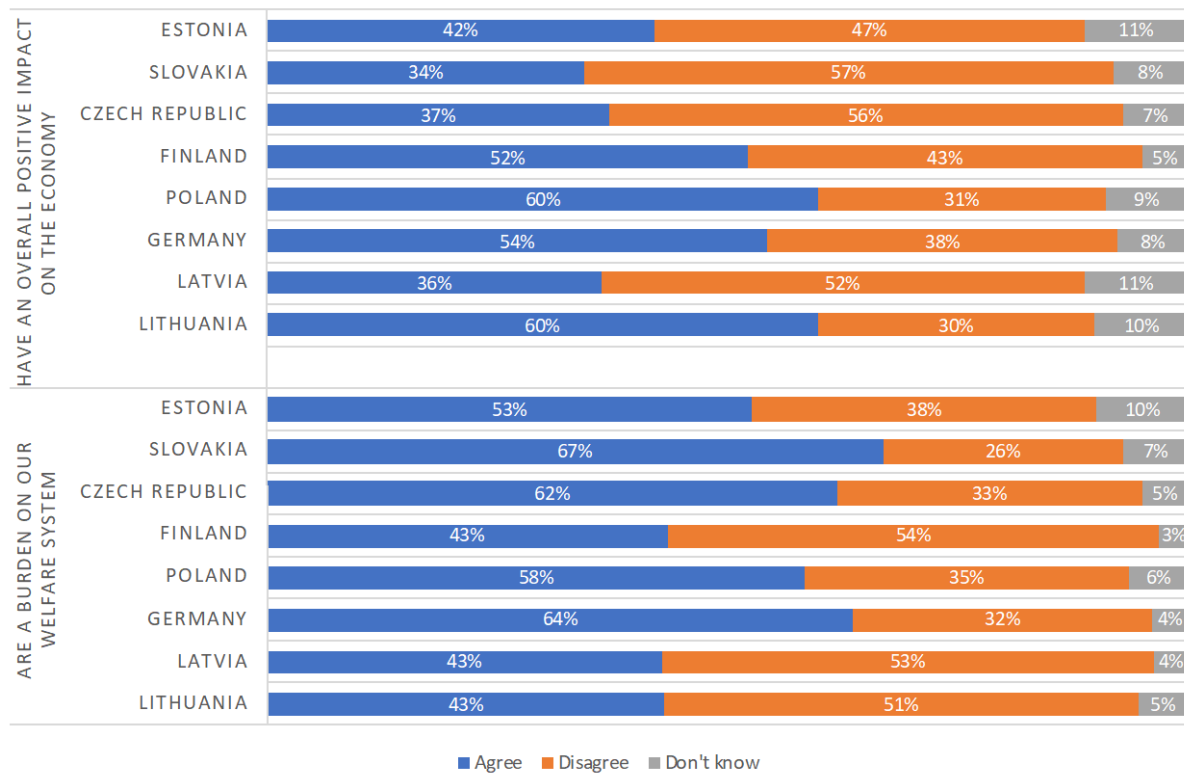
Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Fears, questions, and myths regarding migration

Fears, questions, and myths regarding migration are partly reflected in the perception of immigrants’ impact on society. The Eurobarometer 2017 survey examined whether people agreed or disagreed with statements on immigrants’ impact on society. No similar data can be found in surveys on migration in general. More than half of the 15-35-year olds in Poland, Lithuania, Germany, and Finland think that immigrants have an overall positive effect on the economy, whereas in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, and Latvia the majority of 15-35-year olds disagree with this statement (Figure 10).

The survey also asked whether people view immigrants as a burden to their country’s welfare system. More than half of the young people in five countries – Estonia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany believe that immigrants are a burden on the welfare system. At the same time, more than half of the young people in Finland (54%), Latvia (53%), and Lithuania (51%) disagree with this statement.

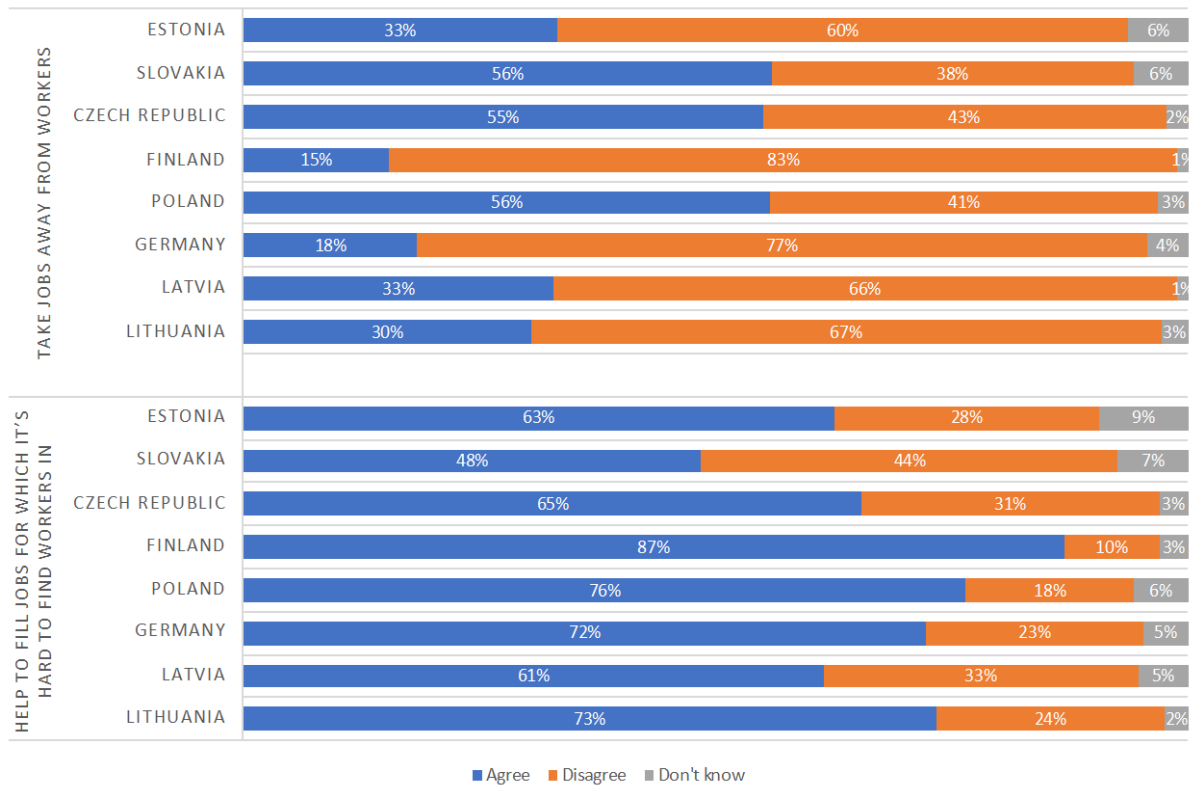
Figure 10. There are different views regarding the impact of immigrants on society in the country. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Overall, immigrants...



Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

A widespread fear linked to immigration is that immigrants “steal” the jobs of the “natives”. 15-35-year olds in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland are more likely to agree that immigrants take jobs away from native workers (56%, 55%, 56%, respectively) whereas only 15% of young people in Finland and 18% in Germany agree with this statement. 87% of youth in Finland agree with the statement that immigrants help to fill jobs for which it’s hard to find workers in, followed by Poland (76%), and Germany (72%) whereas only 48% of youth in Slovakia feel that way (Figure 11). These findings do not necessarily reflect openness or tolerance towards immigrants, as their presumed accepted role in society is viewed as when occupying less prestigious jobs.

Figure 11. There are different views regarding the impact of immigrants on society in the country. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Overall, immigrants...



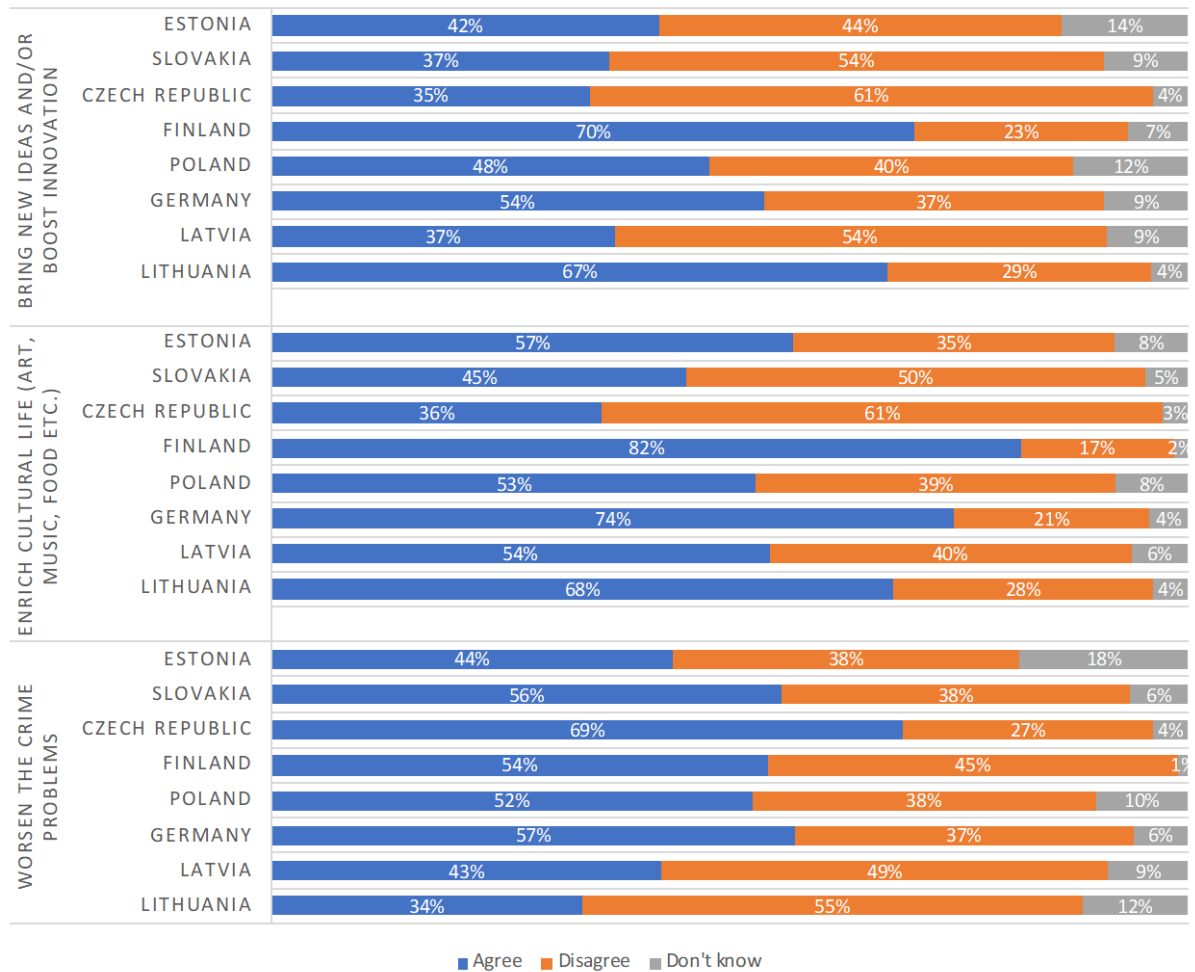
Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

The positive effects of immigration are usually related to views that immigrants bring with them new ideas, enrich cultural life in the receiving country, and boost innovation and diversity. Young people in different countries have differing views on whether immigrants bring new ideas and/or boost innovation. For example, the young people in Finland and Lithuania largely agree (70% and 67%, respectively) but in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Latvia only a little over one third of young people agree with this statement (Figure 12).

Whether immigrants enrich cultural life or not also tends to have dividing opinions between the selected countries, with 82% of young people in Finland agreeing and 61% of youth in the Czech Republic disagreeing.

Finally, there is a fear regarding immigration which revolves around the, often irrational, belief that immigrants increase crime rates. About a third of youth in Lithuania agree that immigrants worsen crime problems, which is about twice less than young people in the Czech Republic. Similarly, young Lithuanians seem to be less influenced by myths and negative ideas about the immigrants. 18% of 15-35-year olds in Estonia answered “don’t know” to this statement, compared to 1% in Finland which may indicate that there are no debates in the Estonian society and schools that would discuss immigration from this angle.

Figure 12. There are different views regarding the impact of immigrants on society in the country. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Overall, immigrants...



Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

Overall, it seems that young people in Finland and Lithuania are most likely to have positive views on the impact immigrants have on the society compared to other countries. Young people in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland tend to have more negative views, whereas Estonia, Germany, and Latvia fall in the middle of the scale. There are questions, however, on whether young Polish people demonstrate similar views to young Germans, so it is difficult to generalise the differences between the countries.

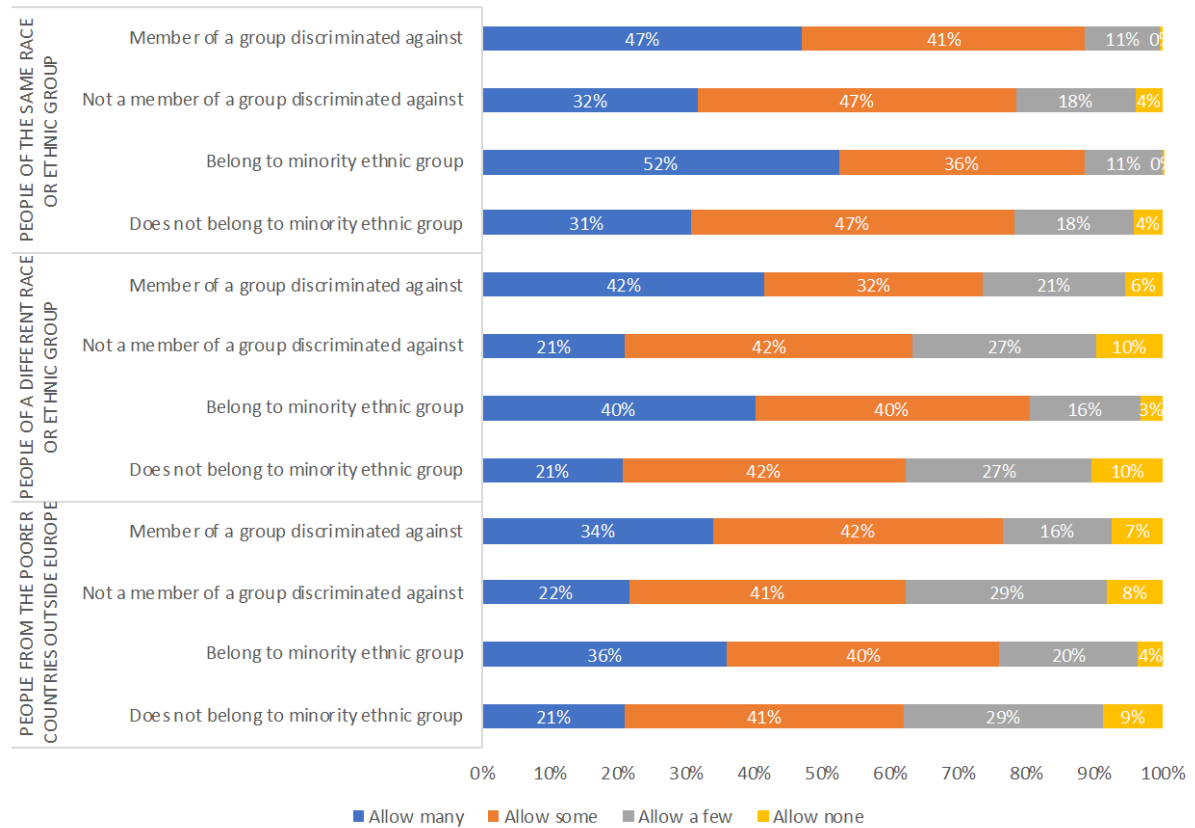
Young people in Estonia are more likely to be unsure about these statements regarding immigrant’s impact compared to other countries since they answered “don’t know” the most for each statement. However, there are considerable differences between countries on individual questions and further analysis with more data is needed to make general conclusions regarding the views of young people *vis-à-vis* to immigrants in the selected countries.

Are opinions on migration influenced by personal experiences?

The data from the European Social Survey 2018 show that people’s perceptions of migration is influenced by their own experience of being a member of a disadvantaged group and belonging to a minority ethnic group in a country, but also by their contact with immigrants.

Firstly, people of discriminated groups or minority ethnic groups are generally more tolerant towards immigrants. This applies to different types of immigrants – including immigrants of the same or different racial or ethnic group and immigrants from the poorer countries outside Europe (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Attitudes towards allowing different types of immigrants to the country by belonging into discriminated group or ethnic minority in country (Age 15-35, Estonia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Poland).



Source: European Social Survey, 2018

Similarly, perceptions on the impact of immigration on a country’s economy, cultural life, and life in general are also perceived slightly more positively by young people belonging to discriminated groups or ethnic minorities in the country than the total population (Figure 14).

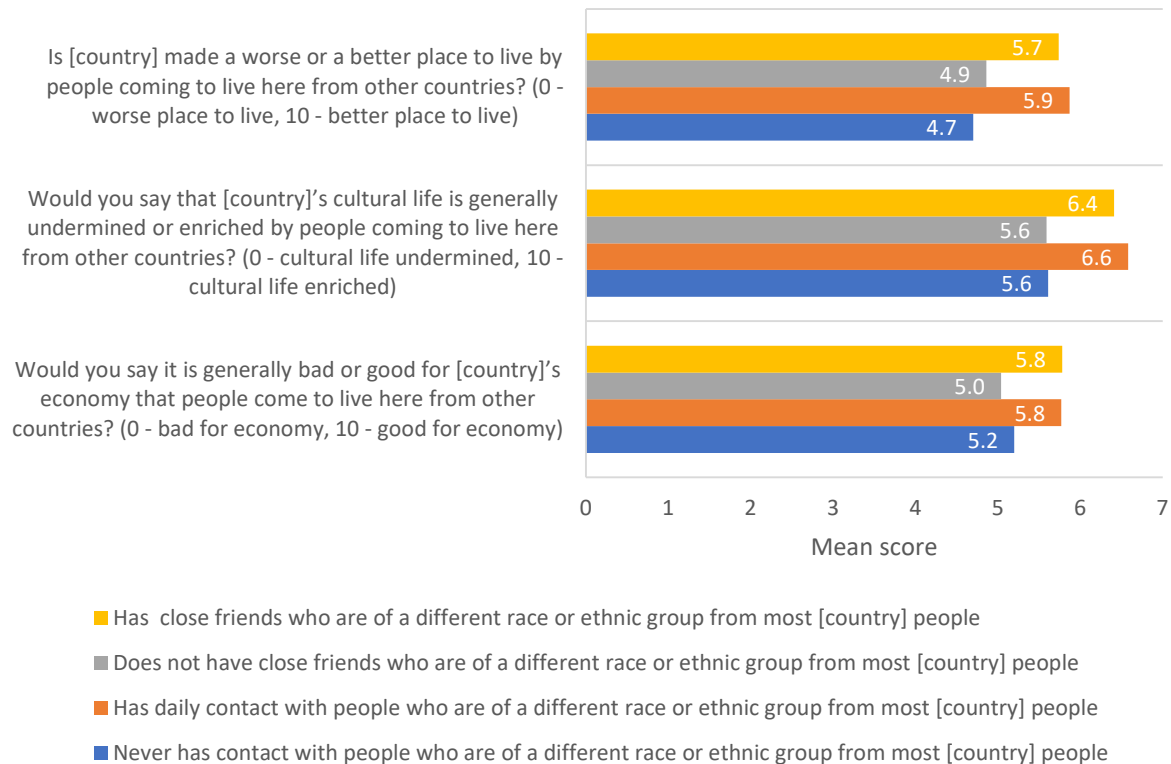
Figure 14. Perceptions on the impact of immigration by belonging into discriminated group or ethnic minority in country (Estonia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Poland). Average score.



Source: European Social Survey, 2018

A young person who has close friends and/or daily contact with people who are of a different racial or ethnic group from the majority population in the country increases the likelihood that immigration’s impact is viewed as positive (Figure 15). This suggests that young people who live in cities and regions with more people who belong to ethnic minorities and immigrants are more tolerant towards immigration.

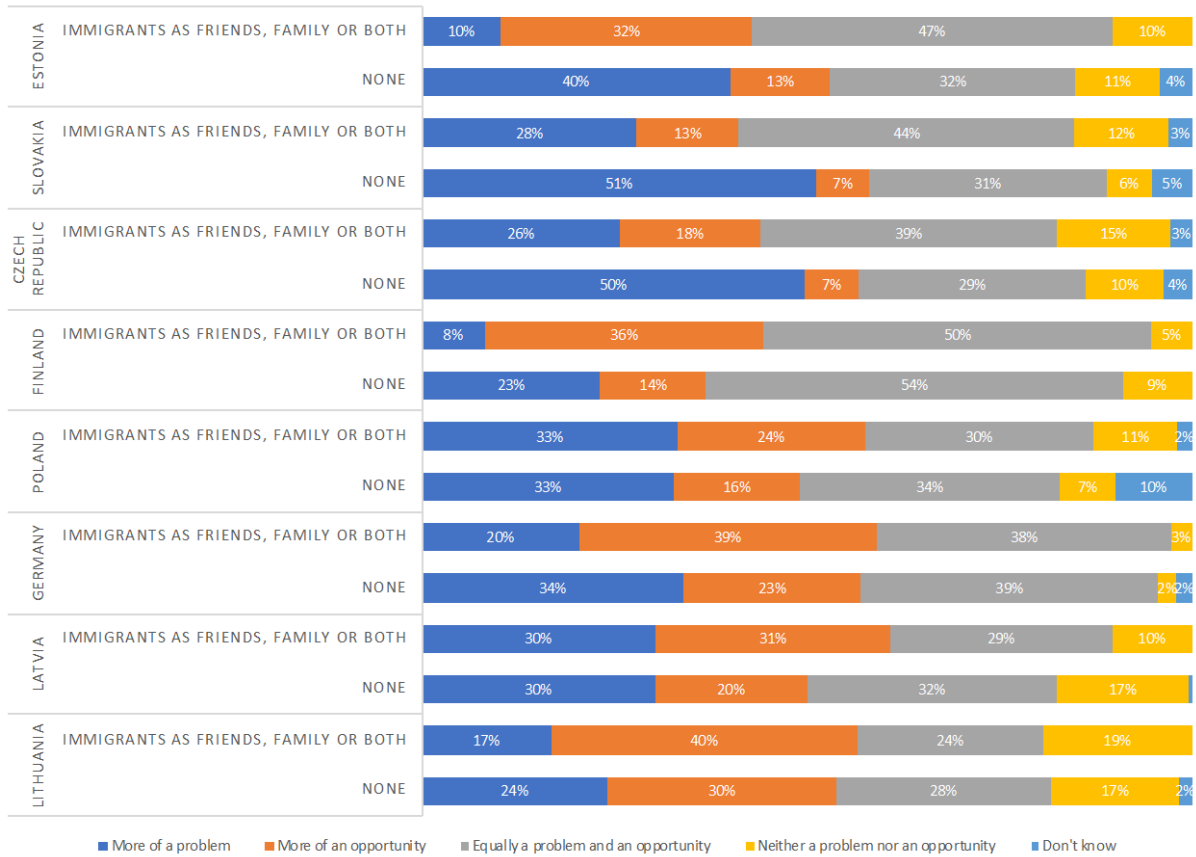
Figure 15. Perceptions on the impact of immigration by having close friends of a different race or ethnic group and by having daily contact with people of a different race or ethnic group (Estonia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Poland). Average score.



Source: European Social Survey, 2014

As the Eurobarometer 2017 data includes all the countries of this analysis, the cross-country differences for this research question are also presented. Data show that for most young people in the selected countries, having immigrants as friends, family or both positively impacts attitudes on whether immigration outside the EU is more of an opportunity rather than a problem. This is most evident in Estonia where 40% of people with no immigrant friends or family see immigration as a problem and only 10% of people with immigrant friends, family or both feel the same way. The positive impact of being friends with immigrants towards immigration is also clear for Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, and Lithuania. However, there is no difference in attitudes on immigration for young people in Latvia based on having migrant friends or family or not – 30% of 15-35-year old people with immigrant as friends or family in Latvia see immigration as a problem in the society and the same goes for youth without any immigrant friends or family (Figure 16). The situation is similar in Poland.

Figure 16. Attitudes on whether immigration from outside the EU is more of a problem or more of an opportunity for the country by having immigrants as friends, family, both, or none.



Source: Eurobarometer 88.2, 2017

Individual factors affecting attitudes towards immigration

Additionally, we used Eurobarometer 2019 data to analyse factors that affect how people in each of the selected countries view immigrants by using a multinomial regression model. More precisely; we wanted to know how age, gender, type of community, life satisfaction, age when stopping full-time education, and experiencing difficulties with paying bills would affect whether people agree or disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. The dependent variable was: “To what extent do you agree or disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to your country?” with three categories – “Agree”, “Disagree” and “Don’t know”. Originally the questions had five categories: “Totally agree”, “Tend to agree”, “Tend to disagree”, “Totally disagree” and “Don’t know”, but these were recoded into three categories to simplify the interpretation of the regression analysis results. In all, the regression model “Agree” is the reference category whereas for the independent variables the last category is the reference category. The independent variables are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Independent variables

Gender	Men
	Women
Age group	15-24
	25-34
	35+ (ref.)
Age when stopped full-time education	Up to 15
	16-19
	20+
	Still studying (ref.)
Satisfaction with life	Satisfied
	Not satisfied (ref.)
Difficulties paying bills at the month during the last twelve months.	Most of the time
	From time to time
	Never (ref.)
Type of community	Rural area or village
	Small/middle town
	Large town (ref.)

For all regression models, the explanatory power of the models according to Nagelkerke Pseudo R-Squared is quite weak. That means that there are more underlying factors that affect how people see immigrants and whether they think that immigrants contribute a lot to their country or not. The results are presented for each of the countries separately below.

Estonia

In Estonia, 25-34-year olds compared to people 35-years-old or older are almost twice as likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. Also, men compared to women in Estonia are almost twice as likely to agree rather than not know if immigrants contribute a lot to their country. People who stopped full-time education at 16-19 years old compared to those still studying are 5 times more likely to agree with the statement. The same tendency goes for those who stopped full-time education after turning 20 years old. Finally, people who faced difficulties paying bills during the last twelve months compared to those who almost never/never did are twice as likely to not know rather than agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. Life satisfaction and

type of community did not play a factor in predicting whether Estonian people agree, disagree, or don't know with the statement.

Table 2. Factors affecting whether people agree/disagree/don't know that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Estonia	Independent variables	Disagree		Don't know	
		Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)
Gender	<i>Men</i>	0,76	0,53-1,11	0,52*	0,3-0,91
	<i>Women</i>				
Age group	<i>15-24</i>	0,65	0,28-1,51	0,45	0,11-1,77
	<i>25-34</i>	0,52**	0,32-0,83	0,57	0,26-1,23
	<i>35+</i>				
Age when stopped full-time education	<i>Up to 15</i>	2,34	0,39-14,14	0,42	0,04-4,33
	<i>16-19</i>	0,95	0,35-2,6	0,19*	0,04-0,82
	<i>20+</i>	0,66	0,23-1,89	0,15*	0,03-0,66
	<i>Still studying</i>				
Satisfaction with life	<i>Satisfied</i>	0,57	0,29-1,11	0,52	0,21-1,26
	<i>Not satisfied</i>				
Difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months.	<i>Most of the time</i>	2,75	0,9-8,35	1,86	0,44-7,9
	<i>From time to time</i>	1,45	0,84-2,48	2,43*	1,2-4,93
	<i>Never</i>				
Type of community	<i>Rural area or village</i>	1,61	0,99-2,61	1,70	0,86-3,36
	<i>Small/middle town</i>	1,13	0,72-1,77	0,93	0,47-1,83
	<i>Large town</i>				
N		737		89	
Nagelkerke R²		0,083			
**“Agree” – N=142					
* Statistically significant *p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001.					

Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Slovakia

For people in Slovakia, age also plays a role in how people see immigrants. 15-24-year old people compared to people over 35-years-old are 2,5 times more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. The same goes for people who are 25-34-years old. Interestingly, people who are satisfied with their life compared to those not satisfied are almost 4 times more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. People who have faced difficulties paying the bills compared to those who never did during the last twelve months are ca. 50% more likely to agree with the statement. People who stopped full-time education before turning 16 are 32 times more likely to not know whether immigrants contribute a lot to their country or not compared to those who are still studying. People who stopped full-time education after the age of 20 are 4 times more likely to not know whether immigrants contribute a lot to their country or not compared to those who are still studying. Although the exponential regression coefficients are high for these variables, it should be noted that the confidence intervals are also very wide, which means that the variables are highly scattered. It can also refer to a small number of individuals for this dependent variable category. People who are satisfied with their life compared to those who are not are 4 times more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country rather than not know.

Table 3. Factors affecting whether people agree/disagree/don't know that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Slovakia		Disagree		Don't know	
	Independent variables	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)
Gender	<i>Men</i>	1,13	0,84-1,51	0,85	0,53-1,38
	<i>Women</i>				
Age group	<i>15-24</i>	0,40*	0,22-0,70	1,06	0,47-2,39
	<i>25-34</i>	0,39***	0,27-0,57	0,73	0,40-1,32
	<i>35+</i>				
Age when stopped full-time education	<i>Up to 15</i>	3,09	0,62-15,48	32,52**	4,57-231,66
	<i>16-19</i>	1,01	0,50-2,02	2,29	0,68-7,75
	<i>20+</i>	1,06	0,49-2,27	4,07*	1,11-14,88
	<i>Still studying</i>				
Satisfaction with life	<i>Satisfied</i>	0,27***	0,16-0,45	0,23***	0,11-0,46
	<i>Not satisfied</i>				
Difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months.	<i>Most of the time</i>	2,56	0,72-9,13	1,38	0,28-6,70
	<i>From time to time</i>	0,64**	0,46-0,89	0,26***	0,13-0,51
	<i>Never</i>				
Type of community	<i>Rural area or village</i>	1,03	0,67-1,56	1,82	0,84-3,93
	<i>Small/middle town</i>	0,80	0,52-1,22	1,72	0,79-3,72

	<i>Large town</i>			
N		598		99
Nagelkerke R²		0,155		
* "Agree" – N=304				
* Statistically significant *p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001.				

Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Czech Republic

People in the Czech Republic who are satisfied with their life compared to those not satisfied are almost 3 times more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country rather than disagree. People who have faced difficulties paying their bills during the last twelve months compared to those who never did are more than twice as likely to agree rather than disagree with the statement. People in the Czech Republic living in small or middle-sized towns compared to those in large towns are almost 4 times more likely to not know if immigrants contribute a lot to their county rather than agree with that statement. However, once again the confidence intervals for this variable are quite wide referring to a high dispersion or to a small number of individuals for this dependent variable category.

Table 4. Factors affecting whether people agree/disagree/don't know that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Czech Republic	Independent variables	Disagree		Don't know	
		Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)
Gender	<i>Men</i>	1,36	0,93-1,98	1,51	0,66-3,44
	<i>Women</i>				
Age group	<i>15-24</i>	0,63	0,31-1,27	0,45	0,07-2,83
	<i>25-34</i>	0,86	0,52-1,44	0,74	0,23-2,34
	<i>35+</i>				
Age when stopped full-time education	<i>Up to 15</i>	0,99	0,29-3,44	0,53	0,02-11,75
	<i>16-19</i>	1,84	0,75-4,54	0,71	0,08-6,51
	<i>20+</i>	1,29	0,50-3,32	1,24	0,13-12,23
	<i>Still studying</i>				
Satisfaction with life	<i>Satisfied</i>	0,34**	0,16-0,72	1,16	0,17-7,67
	<i>Not satisfied</i>				
Difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months.	<i>Most of the time</i>	0,41*	0,19-0,88	0,00	0,00-0,00
	<i>From time to time</i>	0,95	0,61-1,49	2,15	0,90-5,13
	<i>Never</i>				

Type of community	<i>Rural area or village</i>	0,86	0,53-1,39	1,01	0,27-3,80
	<i>Small/middle town</i>	1,16	0,72-1,87	3,64*	1,20-11,05
	<i>Large town</i>				
N		794		28	
Nagelkerke R²		0,071			
* "Agree" – N=137					
* Statistically significant *p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001.					

Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Finland

Men in Finland are 35% more likely than women to disagree rather than agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. People who stopped full time education before the age of 20 compared to those still studying are almost 3 times more likely to disagree with the statement. Interestingly, people who are satisfied with their life are more than twice as likely to disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people who are not satisfied with their life. People who have faced difficulties paying their bills during the last twelve months are 70% more likely to disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people who never had difficulties paying bills; while people who have had difficulties paying their bills during the last twelve months are almost 11 times more likely to agree rather than not know if immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people who never had difficulties paying bills. People living in rural areas or villages and/or small, middle towns compared to those living in larger cities in Finland are 3-4 times more likely to disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Table 5. Factors affecting whether people agree/disagree/don't know that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Finland	Independent variables	Disagree		Don't know	
		Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)
Gender	<i>Men</i>	1,35*	1,01-1,79	1,69	0,96-2,99
	<i>Women</i>				
Age group	<i>15-24</i>	0,69	0,38-1,25	1,35	0,49-3,72
	<i>25-34</i>	1,00	0,65-1,55	1,44	0,62-3,36
	<i>35+</i>				
Age when stopped full-time education	<i>Up to 15</i>	2,65*	1,09-6,45	2,49	0,59-10,51
	<i>16-19</i>	2,83**	1,50-5,36	1,45	0,51-4,10
	<i>20+</i>	0,97	0,52-1,81	0,54	0,18-1,64
	<i>Still studying</i>				
Satisfaction with life	<i>Satisfied</i>	2,37*	1,08-5,21	0,57	0,19-1,69
	<i>Not satisfied</i>				
Difficulties paying bills at	<i>Most of the time</i>	1,29	0,52-3,19	0,16	0,00-5,35

the end of the month during the last twelve months.	<i>From time to time</i>	1,71	1,11-2,63	0,09*	0,01-0,90
	<i>Never</i>				
Type of community	<i>Rural area or village</i>	4,13***	2,44-7,01	0,83	0,37-1,83
	<i>Small/middle town</i>	3,39***	2,07-5,53	0,63	0,32-1,27
	<i>Large town</i>				
N		341		59	
Nagelkerke R²		0,155			
* "Agree" – N=570					
* Statistically significant *p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001.					

Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Poland

Younger people (aged under 35) in Poland are up to twice as likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people aged over 35. Also, people that stopped full-time education over the age of 20 compared to those still studying are 5 times more likely to agree with the statement. People satisfied with their life compared to those not satisfied are 84% more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. People living in rural areas or villages are 78%, and people living in small/middle towns are 54%, more likely to disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to those living in larger towns. However, people living in rural areas or villages compared to those living in larger cities are also over twice as likely to not know if they think that immigrants contribute a lot to their country rather than agree with the statement.

Table 6. Factors affecting whether people agree/disagree/don't know that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Poland		Disagree		Don't know	
	Independent variables	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)
Gender	<i>Men</i>	1,22	0,91-1,62	0,66	0,41-1,05
	<i>Women</i>				
Age group	<i>15-24</i>	0,44*	0,22-0,91	0,73	0,26-2,04
	<i>25-34</i>	0,67*	0,45-0,99	0,76	0,40-1,44
	<i>35+</i>				
Age when stopped full-time education	<i>Up to 15</i>	0,80	0,31-2,02	3,79	0,82-17,45
	<i>16-19</i>	0,57	0,25-1,29	2,14	0,52-8,84
	<i>20+</i>	0,42*	0,19-0,93	1,47	0,36-5,92
	<i>Still studying</i>				
Satisfaction	<i>Satisfied</i>	0,54*	0,34-0,87	1,30	0,54-3,14

with life	<i>Not satisfied</i>				
Difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months.	<i>Most of the time</i>	0,48	0,19-1,23	0,80	0,21-3,01
	<i>From time to time</i>	0,70	0,48-1,01	0,64	0,35-1,17
	<i>Never</i>				
Type of community	<i>Rural area or village</i>	1,78**	1,24-2,53	2,32**	1,32-4,09
	<i>Small/middle town</i>	1,54*	1,05-2,26	1,50	0,79-2,87
	<i>Large town</i>				
N		0,87			
Nagelkerke R²		364		98	
* "Agree" – N=463					
* Statistically significant *p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001.					

Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Germany

People in Germany who stopped full-time education before the age of 16 are almost 4 times more likely than people still studying to disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. The same goes for people who stopped full-time education between the ages 16-19. People who stopped full-time education after the age of 20 are also almost twice as likely to disagree rather than agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people still studying. On the other hand, people in Germany who are satisfied with their life are 75% more likely to agree compared to people who are not satisfied with their life. People who have faced difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months are twice as likely to disagree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people who never had difficulties. Whereas, people who have faced difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months are 94% more likely to not know whether immigrants contribute a lot to their country or not compared to people who never had difficulties paying bills. People living in rural areas or villages are 52% more likely, and people living in small/middle towns are 38% more likely, to disagree with the statement compared to people living in large cities. People who are satisfied with their life compared to people who are not are 2,4 times more likely to agree rather than not know whether immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Table 7. Factors affecting whether people agree/disagree/don't know that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Germany	Independent variables	Disagree		Don't know	
		Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)
Gender	<i>Men</i>	1,04	0,82-1,31	0,75	0,5-1,12
	<i>Women</i>				
Age group	<i>15-24</i>	0,93	0,57-1,52	1,25	0,57-2,76

	25-34	0,96	0,67-1,37	0,60	0,3-1,23
	35+				
Age when stopped full-time education	<i>Up to 15</i>	3,80***	2,03-7,11	1,65	0,56-4,85
	<i>16-19</i>	3,60***	2,06-6,31	2,47	0,98-6,24
	<i>20+</i>	1,91*	1,06-3,44	1,49	0,55-4,03
	<i>Still studying</i>				
Satisfaction with life	<i>Satisfied</i>	0,57*	0,37-0,87	0,41**	0,21-0,8
	<i>Not satisfied</i>				
Difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months.	<i>Most of the time</i>	1,63	0,85-3,13	0,58	0,13-2,51
	<i>From time to time</i>	2,04***	1,44-2,9	1,94*	1,11-3,39
	<i>Never</i>				
Type of community	<i>Rural area or village</i>	1,52*	1,09-2,1	1,62	0,91-2,88
	<i>Small/middle town</i>	1,38*	1,04-1,81	1,46	0,89-2,39
	<i>Large town</i>				
N		534		116	
Nagelkerke R²		0,092			
* "Agree" – N= 774					
* Statistically significant *p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001.					

Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Latvia

Men in Latvia are 56% more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to women. Younger people in the 15-24 and 25-34 age groups are over twice as likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people aged over 35. Specifically, people aged 25-34 are almost 3 times more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people aged 35 or above.

Table 8. Factors affecting whether people agree/disagree/don't know that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Latvia	Independent variables	Disagree		Don't know	
		Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)
Gender	<i>Men</i>	0,64*	0,42-0,96	0,49*	0,27-0,89
	<i>Women</i>				
Age group	<i>15-24</i>	0,42*	0,2-0,89	0,87	0,31-2,42

	25-34	0,36***	0,22-0,6	0,37*	0,16-0,85
	35+				
Age when stopped full-time education	<i>Up to 15</i>	2,78	0,6-12,81	2,37	0,28-19,94
	<i>16-19</i>	1,59	0,64-3,9	1,85	0,49-6,97
	<i>20+</i>	1,59	0,63-4,06	1,71	0,43-6,71
	<i>Still studying</i>				
Satisfaction with life	<i>Satisfied</i>	1,02	0,57-1,82	0,76	0,35-1,68
	<i>Not satisfied</i>				
Difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months.	<i>Most of the time</i>	0,78	0,38-1,62	0,80	0,29-2,2
	<i>From time to time</i>	1,04	0,65-1,66	0,62	0,3-1,26
	<i>Never</i>				
Type of community	<i>Rural area or village</i>	1,36	0,79-2,35	0,97	0,45-2,09
	<i>Small/middle town</i>	0,86	0,54-1,38	0,77	0,39-1,5
	<i>Large town</i>				
N		789		81	
Nagelkerke R²		0,063			
* "Agree" – N= 112					
* Statistically significant *p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001.					

Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

Lithuania

People aged 15-24 in Lithuania are almost 3 times more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to people aged over 35. People in Lithuania who stopped full-time education after the age of 20 are 2,5 times more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country compared to those still studying. People who are more satisfied with their life are also 56% more likely to agree with the statement compared to people who are reportedly not satisfied with their life. People living in small/middle towns compared to those living in larger towns are twice as likely to agree with the statement.

Table 9. Factors affecting whether people agree/disagree/don't know that immigrants contribute a lot to their country.

Lithuania		Disagree		Don't know	
	Independent variables	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)	Exp(B)	Confidence interval (2,5%-97,5%)
Gender	<i>Men</i>	1,22	0,93-1,61	1,03	0,61-1,74
	<i>Women</i>				

Age group	<i>15-24</i>	0,36**	0,18-0,7	1,12	0,45-2,81
	<i>25-34</i>	0,86	0,58-1,28	0,74	0,33-1,66
	<i>35+</i>				
Age when stopped full-time education	<i>Up to 15</i>	0,54	0,2-1,44	3,08	0,71-13,46
	<i>16-19</i>	0,52	0,24-1,14	1,50	0,44-5,07
	<i>20+</i>	0,39*	0,18-0,85	1,08	0,31-3,76
	<i>Still studying</i>				
Satisfaction with life	<i>Satisfied</i>	0,64*	0,44-0,93	0,72	0,37-1,39
	<i>Not satisfied</i>				
Difficulties paying bills at the end of the month during the last twelve months.	<i>Most of the time</i>	1,47	0,82-2,65	1,55	0,56-4,28
	<i>From time to time</i>	1,07	0,79-1,46	1,56	0,89-2,72
	<i>Never</i>				
Type of community	<i>Rural area or village</i>	0,88	0,6-1,27	1,68	0,91-3,11
	<i>Small/middle town</i>	0,90	0,65-1,25	0,46*	0,22-0,92
	<i>Large town</i>				
N		506		75	
Nagelkerke R²		0,076			
* "Agree" – N= 379					
* Statistically significant *p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001.					

Source: Eurobarometer 91.5, 2019

In the regression models of each country there is a clear trend that, compared to older people, younger people tend to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. However, there does not seem to be a large difference of opinion based on gender. Generally, people who are more satisfied with their life compared to those who are not are more tolerant towards immigrants and are more likely to agree that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. However, Finland is an interesting anomaly in this case. Moreover, in most of the countries people who have faced more difficulties paying the bills at the end of the month are also more likely to disagree with the statement that immigrants contribute a lot to their country. People living in rural areas, villages and smaller towns are also more likely to disagree compared to people who are living in larger cities.

Conclusion

The analysis from the European surveys shows that young people consider it important to provide information about immigrants to prepare communities for receiving new members. The awareness of young people on immigration could improve in all eight countries analysed. More than half of 15-35-year olds in Estonia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Poland, Germany, Latvia, and Lithuania consider themselves not well informed on the topics of immigration and integration. Also, a considerable share of young people (20%-42%) are critical of how the media presents immigration-related topics in their country.

In these countries, young people's general feelings towards immigrants are rather positive. There is, however, a clear trend in all eight countries that the immigration of people from outside the EU evokes more negative or uncertain feelings rather than positive ones. They acknowledge the challenges associated with immigration, especially with immigration from outside of the EU. Young people are also more prone to accept immigrants from the same racial or ethnic group as the country's majority population compared to immigrants from different racial or ethnic groups.

Young people tend to perceive more tensions between different racial groups than the general population and this has increased over the last decade. The examined countries differ considerably in perceived tensions between different racial and ethnic groups, with the youth in the Czech Republic perceiving the most and the youth in Latvia and Lithuania the least.

Overall, it seems that young people in Finland and Lithuania are the most likely to have rather positive views of the impact immigrants have on their society compared to the other countries. On certain issues, young Germans demonstrate greater openness towards immigrants than the other countries' youth. Young Germans tend to believe that immigrants will take the jobs of the local employees but they see the value of immigration in bringing new ideas and diversifying the cultural scene of the country. The young people in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland tend to have more negative views on the impact of immigrants on the society, whereas the young people in Estonia, Germany and Latvia fall in the middle of the scale.

There is also a clear link between young people's positive perception of migration and whether they have had personal experiences with migration, or have immigrants or people belonging to a discriminated group as friends or family members. This may suggest that young people who live in cities and regions with a higher percentage of ethnic minorities and immigrants among the population and who have a bigger chance of coming into contact with an immigrant are more tolerant towards immigration.

The existing cross-national data do not provide answers to all the research questions of this project. Therefore, the following questions merit exploration with qualitative data analysis methods. The research questions not answered are:

- » Does the target group know about different types of migration?
- » Who is considered a credible spokesperson regarding issues around migration?
- » Who is a migrant? How does the target group understand and interpret the word "migrant"?
- » Is the issue of migration considered to be an important topic in society? Do people think it is a political issue, is it irrelevant or something else?
- » Which type of migration has the greatest impact on local life and how?
- » Do people's perceptions of migration and its impact on their lives differ within different regions of the country?

2. Views of young people on migration in interviews in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Poland, and Slovakia

The second part of the study focused on collecting data using qualitative research methods and for some of the countries reviewing the previously concluded studies. This took place in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Poland, and Slovakia.

The purpose of the qualitative study was to find answers to the data gaps from the survey analysis and to take a closer, more in-depth look into the views and perceptions of young people about migration in the selected countries.

The research questions that needed further exploration were:

- » Which types of migration do young people in age group 15-35 know of?
- » Who is a migrant? How does the target group understand and interpret the word “migrant”?
- » What are the fears, questions, and myths of young people regarding migration?
- » Who is considered a credible spokesperson regarding issues around migration (for example, politicians, celebrities, other opinion leaders, foreigners etc.)?
- » Is migration considered to be an important topic in society?
- » Which type of migration has the greatest impact on local life in the opinion of young people and how?

To find answers to these research questions, each country had the choice to either find all answers via desk study (e.g. analysing relevant national studies that have used qualitative methods or studies that reflect people’s feelings, thoughts and views in relation to migration rather than generalised statistics or studies employing quantitative methods), via focus group interviews, or other preferred qualitative data collection methods.

The results of the qualitative data collection are presented below country by country.

ESTONIA

Research setup

The qualitative research in Estonia was conducted in two phases:

- Desk study on national studies in Estonia regarding views on migration
- Focus group interviews.

Firstly, a desk study was conducted to give an overview of national studies in Estonia regarding views on migration. However, the results of these studies do not distinguish between age groups. The desk study gives a general indication on what are the views on migration in Estonia.

To find answers to the research questions posed, focus group interviews were conducted. The focus groups were divided into three groups according to age and first language. The first two interviews were in Estonian and divided between 15-20-years old and 21-35-years old age groups. The third focus group was conducted in Russian with people aged 15-35 years. All interviews were conducted through the Zoom video communication platform and the participants were recruited mostly through social media platforms. The participants backgrounds varied, having worked, and studied in different walks of life. 1 man and 7 women participated in the 15-20-years old interview group, 3

men and 6 women in the 21-35-years old interview group, and 3 men and 5 women in the Russian speaking interview group. The interviews lasted around 1-2 hours.

Review of national studies in Estonia regarding views on migration

Ainsaar and Beilmann analysed the European Social Survey 2014 data on people's attitudes towards immigrants from outside the EU¹. They found that in Estonia, immigrants from third countries are treated more cautiously than in many other European countries. Moreover, Estonian people prefer the immigration of culturally similar people and it is also important for people that immigrants adopt the Estonian lifestyle and acquire the Estonian language. However, knowledge of the Estonian language, education and other acquired skills are more important than innate qualities (such as skin colour). They also found that young people with higher education qualifications are more accepting of immigrants than older people, while gender and nationality do not seem to play a huge role. Age is also the most influential factor for attitudes towards Jewish, Muslim and Roma immigrants – people under 30 are the most tolerant of immigrants from these backgrounds.

During the last decade, researchers have conducted several cross-country studies on people's attitudes towards migration. For instance, Paas and Halapuu have explored people's attitudes towards immigration in 26 European countries, including Estonia, based on the European Social Survey fourth round database.² The results of the study showed that the attitudes of European people towards immigrants vary depending on the personal characteristics of the respondents, the country's characteristics, and the attitudes of people towards their country's institutions and socio-economic security. In fact, they found that ethnic minorities, urban people, people with higher education qualifications and higher income, as well as people who have worked abroad are usually more tolerant towards immigrants in Europe. Paas and Halapuu also found that people who are more trusting of their country's political institutions and people who have a more positive expectation of their future wellbeing and with presumed lower socio-economic risks are more tolerant towards immigrants.

Paas and Demidova conducted a comparative study of Estonia and Russia on how people perceive immigrants' role in their country's life, based on the European Social Survey (ESS) fifth round database.³ The results of the study show that Estonian people's attitudes towards immigrants are, on the average, more tolerant in all aspects of the country's life – economy, culture, and the country as a living place, compared to the Russian results. Ethnic minorities, religious people, and people with higher incomes are more tolerant to immigrants in both countries, but only in Estonia are socio-demographic characteristics such as age, gender, and education valid determinants of people's attitudes towards immigrants.

The social and market research company Saar Poll Ltd conducted in 2010 and 2014 two studies on perceptions around asylum-seeking.⁴ The objective of the study was to map the opinions and attitudes of the Estonian population regarding asylum-seekers and refugees, and also to bring forth the possible changes in the population's attitudes between year 2010 and 2014. The study shows

¹ Ainsaar, M.; Beilmann, M. (2016). Eesti elanikkonna hoiakud kolmandatest riikidest sisseandajate suhtes Euroopa Sotsiaaluuringu andmetes. Uuringu aruanne. Tartu: Tartu Ülikool.

² Paas, T.; Halapuu, V. (2012). Attitudes towards immigrants and the integration of ethnically diverse societies. *Eastern Journal of European Studies*, 3 (2), 161–176.

³ Paas, T., Demidova, O. (2014). How people perceive immigrants' role in their country's life: a comparative study of Estonia and Russia. *Eastern Journal of European Studies*, 5 (2), 119–137.

⁴ SaarPoll OÜ (2014). Eesti elanike teadlikkus ja hoiakud pagulasküsimustes.

SaarPoll OÜ (2010). Eesti elanike teadlikkus ja hoiakud pagulasküsimustes.

that Estonians rated their understanding of the terminology on immigration and asylum-seeking as relatively good. However, their actual knowledge was lower as people were often unable to explain the difference between a refugee and other types of migrants and they did not know the exact meaning of various migration-related terms. Attitudes towards refugees were mostly negative and many Estonians felt that the arrival of asylum seekers was more likely to have a negative impact on the country. However, young people were more willing to participate in the integration of refugees into society than older generations.

In 2015 and 2016, two studies were carried out by TNS Emor with an objective to map attitudes of the Estonian population towards immigration and the refugee crisis.⁵ The studies revealed that Estonians are more tolerant towards immigrants than towards refugees. Refugees are very often seen as a threat to security, especially by people of lower socio-economic status and among older age groups.

During the peak of the refugee crisis in 2015, another study on attitudes towards refugees was carried out by market research company Turu-uuringute AS.⁶ The study revealed how feelings towards different categories of immigration, such as asylum seeking, migration in relation to studies, family members or employment, differ among the population. For instance, the large majority (93%) of respondents said that Estonia should be open to those foreigners who wish to study in the country, while only 39 percent said the same about the people seeking asylum.

Attitudes towards immigrants were also analysed by Estonian integration studies from 2015 and 2017.⁷ The study from 2015 revealed that ethnic Estonians were less tolerant towards immigrants than ethnic minorities in Estonia. The study from 2017 analysed how welcoming immigrants perceived Estonia with 77% of immigrants feeling that they were welcome in Estonia.

In 2016, the Estonian Human Rights Institute and market research company Turu-uuringute AS conducted a survey on immigration⁸, that aimed to analyse Estonians' awareness and contact with organisations dealing with migration issues, as well as their trust towards different information sources and interest in different cultures etc. The results showed that Estonians' awareness of organisations dealing with migration issues was low and that trust towards different information channels was also rather low, with only 47% trusting the Estonian media, 42% trusting the state administration and 41% trusting the government. Nearly half of the population was not interested in getting to know other cultures, although younger age groups were more interested in other cultures than older people.

Results of the focus group interviews

Which types of migration do young people know?

Young people aged 15-20 mainly understood migration as people moving to different countries or places. Travelling was mentioned as something that is opposite to migration in the sense that travelling is not a permanent change of residence. Both immigration and emigration were mentioned as types of migration. The focus group of people aged 21-35 explained the concept of

⁵ TNS Emor (2015) Arvamusuuring Eesti elanike suhtumisest põgenikekriisi.

Voog, A. (2016). Arvamusuuring Eesti elanike hoiakutest pagulastesse.

⁶ Turu-uuringute AS (2015). Mida eesti elanik arvab põgenikest?

⁷ Kallas, K. jt (2015). Eesti ühiskonna lõimumismonitooring 2015.

Kaldur, K. jt (2017). Eesti ühiskonna integratsiooni monitooring 2017.

⁸ Inimõiguste Instituut, Turu-uuringute AS (2016). Uus-sisserändajate uuring.

migration from wider perspectives. However, migration was mainly associated with either voluntary or forced moving away from one's home. Other types of migration mentioned by participants in the older focus group and in the focus group with Russian speaking young people were migration for family reasons (e.g. to start a family), employment, legal and illegal reasons. Furthermore, migration was viewed as an inevitable and normal part of society and associated with globalisation. When talking about the concept of migration, young people aged 21-35 also wondered and discussed how long a person must live in a different country or city for it to be migration rather than travelling.

Who is a migrant?

The participants in the younger focus group distinguished between the concepts of "migrant (migrant)" and "traveller (rändaja)" and gave these words different meanings even though they are synonyms in Estonian. They defined "traveller" as someone who travels or discovers the world, but the 15-20-years old focus group considered a migrant to be someone who changes their place of residence and has moved to a different country or city with no intent to return. The participants in the 15-20-years old focus group also did not have many personal experiences with migration and migrants, largely because of their young age and possibly due to how they define who is a migrant. The participants who were older than 18 had more personal experiences with migrants than the younger participants. For example, some of them had a partner who had moved to Estonia from a different country, some had met foreign students at their university/school, and some had migrants as colleagues. In the 21-35-years old focus group, migrants were also associated with being taxi drivers or people delivering food. However, **even when some of the interviewees had little to no personal experiences with migrants, almost all of them had family or friends that had gone to study or work abroad.**

What are the fears, questions, and myths regarding migration?

When talking about emigration, participants in the younger focus groups had a **rather positive attitude towards emigration and believed that it is everyone's free choice, and that living in different countries broadens horizons and provides new experiences.** It is also seen as a positive thing when people return to Estonia and thereby enrich Estonian culture and society with their new knowledge and experiences. At the same time, **young people acknowledge that the views of the older generation and the younger generation may differ in this respect.** While young people themselves are more open to emigration, the older generation is perceived to be more negative about emigration, especially if people leave Estonia with no intent to return. The rationale being that older people are more patriotic and do not understand people who "abandon" their home country.

The 21-35-years-old participants' attitudes towards emigration were also mostly positive or neutral. However, for some of the young people this topic was twofold. For example, some of them viewed it as questionable if people decide to leave Estonia only to get a better salary or if people want to leave because they see only bad things in their native country. Some participants still felt that it is people's free will to leave and they are apathetic even if the decision to leave was taken for "superficial" reasons like wanting to live in a "better" climate. The same topics came up in the Russian speaking focus groups – the young Russian speaking participants' attitudes depended on how those people who emigrate were motivated by their decision. If people took the view that another country would provide them with more possibilities to have better living conditions, job options or specific experiences they cannot find in their own country, then this is seen as acceptable. However, if the person who wants to leave is motivated by illusions about a better life elsewhere, then the young people question whether this is an acceptable reason to leave.

While talking about their own experiences as a migrant living elsewhere, some brought up fears and prejudices that they had when first moving somewhere else. For example, a young woman who moved to Turkey had initial fears that she might get harassed on the streets when walking alone. However, she explained that these fears were mostly brought up or caused by her close-ones or the media, and when she learned some Turkish, she could better understand what was going on around her and these unjustified fears disappeared. Similarly, a participant in the 21-35-year old's focus group who moved to the South of France around the time of the terrorist attacks, felt a discomfort when walking the streets and coming face to face with a larger group of visible minorities. He also felt that these fears came mostly from how the media had portrayed the terrorists, their cultural and ethnic background etc. Once he found colleagues, acquaintances and friends from visibly ethnic minorities in France, these fears disappeared.

When talking about immigration and immigrants, the young people in all three focus groups had mostly positive attitudes but some fears and questions were also mentioned. In describing their attitudes towards immigrants, young people aged 15-20 largely relied on what they have observed in the media or what their parents/grandparents express. Even if their own attitudes and opinions towards immigrants were rather positive, the negative aspects that are associated with immigrants in general were also voiced. For example, the participants distinguished immigrants based on their country of origin. They pointed out that in general people tend to have a more positive attitude towards immigrants who come to Estonia from Europe or other Western countries. At the same time, they do not think that immigrants from less affluent, non-Western societies are as tolerated in Estonian society as those arriving from the West. Again, young people pointed out that younger and older people may have different attitudes in this respect - young people perceiving themselves more tolerant when compared to older people. When asked whether Estonia should be open to people from different ethnic and racial backgrounds, the participants in the younger focus group (15-20) mainly expressed that Estonia should be open to them, but only to a certain extent and it should be regulated by the state. These assessments reflected young people's patriotism and fear of Estonian heritage and culture vanishing if many immigrants would be allowed to settle in Estonia.

The participants in the older age group (21-35) had mostly positive and tolerant attitudes towards immigrants, but they did point out that there are many people in the society who do not share their views. They agreed that people tend to fear what is new and foreign to them, which is the reason why younger people (who usually have had more personal experiences with people from different backgrounds) tend to be more tolerant and progressive in that regard than the older generation.

They also felt that the media plays a major role in how people view immigration. They also agreed that people from larger cities like Tallinn and Tartu tend to be more tolerant towards immigrants than people from smaller cities or those in the countryside. The participants in the older age group (21-35) shared similar views with the younger participants when it came to the discussion of whether Estonia should be welcoming to people from different ethnic and racial backgrounds. They mostly agreed that Estonia should be open, but to a certain extent as Estonia was perceived to be small. One of their fears was about immigrants living in the same area together which, in their opinion, it makes it harder for them to integrate into the society.

Regarding immigrants, the participants in the interview expressed that certain problems might arise if the state does not have a good plan for integration. Racist expressions that were used, like "people coming here from Africa, inviting their families here and all living together in a bundle in the ghettos" reflected some of the prejudices that young people have towards immigrants. Thus, they stressed the importance of having a good integration strategy, which in their opinion is currently lacking in Estonia. They expressed that they are more open to people who are willing to learn the

Estonian language and are interested in Estonian culture as opposed to people who are not motivated to learn and integrate into society.

The young people in the Russian-speaking focus group had favourable attitudes towards those immigrants who follow the local laws, who learn the local language, who socialise in the local communities, and work or contribute in other ways to the local community. They also felt that in general the attitudes towards immigrants in Estonia might be based on the visual appearance of a person. If some years ago migration or immigrants were mostly associated with Russians, nowadays there are more people from different backgrounds emigrating to Estonia. This is something that people are still adapting to and according to the opinions expressed by some participants, Estonia is not adapted at all to welcoming people from other countries (e.g. lack of signs in English in public spaces compared to other countries). They also agreed that younger and more educated people and those living in cities are more tolerant compared to those who are older, less educated and living far from cities. However, when they themselves compared locals' views to Russians in Moscow, the people in Estonia were perceived to be more tolerant towards people with different cultural backgrounds. They also felt that for many local people communicating with immigrants might be hindered by the lack or low skills of English.

All in all, the young people in all three focus groups had mostly positive attitudes toward migration and immigrants. However, their main fear regarding immigration was related to the integration of immigrants that they judged to be lacking in Estonia. They were mostly open to people from different backgrounds with the exception of people who are not motivated to integrate contribute to the society and they felt that people should be allowed, to a certain extent, to preserve Estonian traditions and culture. Thus, young people find that immigrants enrich the culture, but at the same time they should adapt to Estonian culture as soon as possible. Almost all of them highlighted that younger people have more positive attitudes towards people with different backgrounds than older people. They also recognise the power of the media in cultivating fear of immigrants such as during the refugee crisis a couple of years ago.

Is migration an important topic in society?

The participants in the younger focus group interview (15-20-years old) believed that talking about migration is important to broaden people's horizons. However, for them it is also important that both the negative and positive aspects are addressed when discussing migration, so that people can cultivate informed opinions. They feel that raising awareness allows people to make better and more informed decisions and helps to shape their opinions more objectively. However, they also expressed a concern that the issues related to immigration and migration are currently covered too negatively in the media.

The people in the older age group (21-35) felt that the topic is important and should be discussed in an open and educational manner. If the topic of migration is covered from one perspective only, it could make some people even more fearful of immigrants. They feel similarly to the younger participants that issues related to migration are covered by the media in a rather negative light. For example, the media usually covers topics related to terrorist attacks and crisis situations involving asylum seekers while there are too few success stories or educational stories regarding migration. Similar thoughts came up in the Russian speaking focus group. The respondents in this group stressed the importance of talking about the advantages and disadvantages of migration, but also that communication about migration should be more effective, so that the messages would not frighten people.

Which type of migration has the greatest impact on local life?

For the younger focus group participants (15-20-year olds) the impact of emigration from the country was perceived as rather negative, especially if people do not return to Estonia. They expressed that the state would lose labour force and taxpayers. The young people had a materialist view of emigration. They found that if people go abroad to improve their skills and return to Estonia it would be beneficial for the country. In their eyes, immigration can also have a rather positive effect on the country and local life if immigrants contribute to gaps in the community (e.g. by taking on blue-collar jobs that people in Estonia do not wish to engage in or if they would fill positions that need foreign labour force such as in the IT sector).

The participants in the older group felt that it is always a loss to the country if talented people emigrate from Estonia and do not return, since the population is already small. It is also a problem in their eyes for example if builders, doctors or other professionals go to neighbouring countries (e.g. Finland) because the salary is higher there – Estonia then loses in tax revenue and work force. Since Estonia has an aging population, emigration is possibly impacting the economy negatively, and Estonia is forced to attract foreign employees to work here.

The people in the older age group (21-35-years old) and the Russian speaking group expressed that immigration could have a positive effect on the country – immigrants bring along new ideas, enrich cultural life and boost innovation and diversity. However, in most cases immigration for them is only positive if immigrants contribute to the economy, e.g. if they work and are not a burden to the country's welfare system. The young people in all three groups perceive immigrants as instruments to benefit the country - people are needed for the country and not the other way around.

Another recurring theme that came up mostly in the 21-35-year old's interview is that they all agree that emigration and immigration are normal and inevitable parts of society.

FINLAND

Research setup

Finland gathered data in the format of a closed online bulletin board over a period of three days. The participants were recruited by Norstat from their own panel according to the given criteria.

30 participants aged 15-35 were recruited, out of which 28 persons completed the survey. The participants came from various backgrounds. Among the participants were high school students, unemployed people, blue and white-collar workers, university-students, and graduates. The participants lived all over the country, in rural areas and smaller cities as well as in bigger cities including the capital area.

All participants were anonymous, and their opinions were spontaneous and unbiased; they could see each other's answers only after answering each question themselves. In addition, they were able to comment on each other's posts.

Results of the research

Which types of migration do young people know of?

Most of the participants were aware of the different types of migration and their general attitude towards migration was neutral. When the participants were asked about migration spontaneously, many started to talk about it from their own perspective of emigration. The overall view was that it is a human right to move and have the freedom to choose where you want to live. The younger participants were more inclined to see emigration as more of an adventure, some dreamed of moving abroad to study or work for a while and live in another culture, meet new people, and expand their views. The older participants had a more rational view, seeing it as a necessity in some cases to find work or a place to study. However, the majority felt that migration is a positive thing, and that it is good to "mix the gene pool" and exchange views and ideas with people from other cultures.

Emigration was regarded as a positive thing in most cases, but there were some concerns about "brain drain", which is when many educated young people emigrate. In addition, some mentioned cases of wealthy pensioners moving to Southern Europe to avoid paying taxes. Most participants could only come up with negative aspects of emigration that were of personal nature; the fact that one has to leave one's family, friends, and the familiar community behind.

Many of the participants divided immigrants into two sections:

- Labour immigrants (*työperäinen maahanmuuttaja*), foreign students (*ulkomaalainen opiskelija*), and spouses and partners from abroad.
- Refugees (*pakolainen*) and asylum seekers (*turvapaikanhakija*).

Almost all participants agreed that labour immigration is a necessity for Finland. In addition, the attitude towards foreign students and spouses/partners was also positive. In the participants' view, these immigrants come to Finland of their own free will and thus probably have some background information about the country and sufficient language skills to be able to communicate, which could help them integrate into society with ease. Also, these immigrants are not a burden for the Finnish economy, rather quite the opposite as they pay taxes and tuition fees. They are connected to the

Finnish society through their work, place of study, or partner, and are therefore able to adapt more easily to Finnish customs and settle into the community.

Most of the participants agreed that there is a human responsibility to help people in need. However, the opinions regarding refugees and asylum seekers were a bit more divided. It was still agreed that helping is necessary, but that immigration must be restricted and controlled, with more thorough background checks. Only a few respondents pointed out that a refugee is not an immigrant since they are bound to return home to their motherland after the crisis is over. Some respondents highlighted the costs related to receiving and helping refugees. A few participants mentioned the “economic refugees” (*elintasopakolainen*) who come to a country for the social benefits and have no intention to find a job. These are regarded as an economical burden, but most participants left this group out of the discussion.

The ethnicity of the immigrants did not really seem to matter for most respondents, even though it was pointed out that there is racism in the Finnish community. Also, it was possible to read between the lines that the participants had a more positive attitude towards fellow (Western) Europeans as immigrants.

Who is a migrant?

At first it seemed obvious for the participants that a migrant is someone who moves from their home country to another country for whatever reason. When the participants started to think more deeply about the issue, their views became more complex. One determining factor which came up was the duration of the time spent in another country. Most participants thought that migrants do not have a date of their return, like students and guest/seasonal workers usually have. The majority thought that the stay is supposed to be permanent or at least on-going for the individual to be classified as a migrant. Some mentioned that they thought when a person has stayed in a foreign country for over a year and has no intentions to move back, the right term is migrant rather than “visitor”.

There were differing opinions regarding refugees and asylum seekers, some thought that technically they are not immigrants, because they have only come to seek refuge for the time being and are bound to return home someday. However, this is where opinions were divided since most thought that refugees and asylum seekers were immigrants too.

A discussion on when an individual is not a migrant was also brought up with little consensus in the group. Many participants felt that if a person has moved to another country, they will always remain a migrant, regardless of their citizenship. Others thought that when they have learned the language, have settled in, and received the Finnish citizenship they stop being a migrant.

According to the participants, a person moving back to Finland after several years abroad is not considered to be a migrant but a returnee (*paluumuuttaja*). However, emigrants and immigrants are both migrants; a Finn leaving Finland is an emigrant here and an immigrant in the country of entry.

What are the fears, questions, and myths regarding migration?

Even though most participants had mostly neutral and positive thoughts regarding migrants, there were still some fears and myths. When talking about emigration, the participants felt that it is not a good thing when many well-educated Finns move abroad to study or work and might not return

with their gained knowledge and expertise. Additionally, it could be a struggle for the country if rich people and educated workers move abroad, leaving behind the elderly and the poor.

Most of the participants were not prejudiced towards immigrants and many were against generalising based on a few individuals' bad behaviour. However, it came up several times that if you behave according to the "When in Rome" notion (*Maassa maan tavalla*), learn the local habits and become integrated in the Finnish society, then it does not matter where you come from.

When talking about immigration (mostly associated with refugees and asylum seekers) and the negative aspects that come with it, the young participants felt that immigration has a negative impact if immigrants adapt poorly to Finnish society and if they do not learn the local language and habits. The participants also felt negatively towards religions that are presumed to violate human rights and discriminate against women, and immigrants who do not work but live on benefits. The participants also expressed concerns about immigrants who are placed in certain areas of a city or a locality which in turn might form areas mainly populated by migrants or members of a certain ethnic group. The young were also concerned about Finnish culture and traditions slowly disappearing, the process of which could be quickened if more and more immigrants would come to Finland.

Certain stereotypes and myths (e.g. immigrants not having jobs but living on social benefits) seemed to be stronger among the young people living in rural areas and small towns. Based on the responses from the participants, one reason for this may be that in bigger cities, especially within the capital region, the number of migrants is bigger, so that the young people can see migrants working in different positions, most visibly in the service and transport section. There was a small debate regarding this topic and there seems to be a reverse myth regarding this too, because it was stated that "all immigrants have an entrepreneurial mindset and are hard workers".

Only a few had personal negative experiences and encounters with immigrants (e.g. young women being harassed by men). The negative myths seem to come from the media and social media. It was also commented that news coverage regarding immigrants is often one-sided and focuses on the negative. This leads to generalisations, and incidents committed by only a few individuals easily damaging the reputation of all immigrants.

Is migration an important topic in society?

Migration is seen as an important topic by many because it affects society in many ways. In addition, there are several problems in relation to migration that need to be tackled. However, the current discussions around migration in the media and social media irritated many of the participants. It was stated that the public debate is mostly about immigration, not migration and the focus is often on refugees and asylum seekers.

The participants said that they follow these discussions very selectively and seldomly or not at all. One reason given was that it is often filled with negative emotions and is based on loose facts. There are often only two extreme opinions facing each other and the discussion gets "dirty" quickly. The participants also said that they are tired of the current discussions because they only focus on problems, never on problem-solving. They feel there is a need for calm, rational, solution-oriented, fact-based, impartial debate in the Finnish society.

This one-sided debate has led to a certain kind of divide that was visible also among the participants. Many felt that it is a really important issue for them personally and that it needs to be discussed more. The majority, however, were indifferent and/or found the topic rather annoying. Those who considered this to be important for themselves brought up humanitarian issues, equality among

people, and the right to choose where you want to live. In addition, many said that it is important because it affects the whole society economically, socially, and culturally. Many said that it is more of a political issue than a personal one.

Those who felt indifferent/annoyed mentioned the following reasons:

- tired of the debate that goes on and on and leads to nothing,
- the debate is too polarised and aggressive,
- the focus of the debate is always negative, no positive aspects are ever brought up,
- there are more important/interesting things in life,
- the issues in the debate have nothing to do with the respondents' everyday life.

Most participants think that migration is a political issue, because even though freedom of movement is a human right, the government and its political decision makers are the ones who set the boundaries, make the decisions, and give the guidelines. The number of migrants allowed in a country, the amount of money and effort spent on their integration and similar issues are all considered to be political decisions. Even though migration is a highly political issue, some participants criticised the politicians and parties for focusing on it too much and making it part of their electoral campaigns and debates.

Which type of migration has the greatest impact on local life?

Even though it was said that migration has an impact on the whole country since it is visible in politics and media and is part of people's conversations, many said that the greatest impact of migration is to make the culture more diverse and international. In bigger cities different languages can be heard in the streets and people with different ethnic backgrounds can be seen.

One factor that seems to connect all the respondents regardless of where they live is the appreciation for the cuisine of different nations. Even in small remote towns and villages there is always at least one ethnic restaurant that has allowed the participants to explore new tastes and products that they would have normally not tried.

In bigger cities and especially in the capital area there are many immigrants from all over the world. The younger participants who live in bigger cities said that they have known children from different ethnic backgrounds all their life from kindergarten to school.

Finnish universities attract both foreign students and lecturers. As Aalto and Helsinki universities were mentioned as high-end international universities, it makes Helsinki very appealing for foreign students. A campus with students from all over the world allows for exchange of ideas and knowledge. As a result, it also attracts foreign investors and businesses to a buzzing capital. A downside is it makes the city more expensive.

Many respondents mentioned also that they have lived in or near suburbs with a high density of immigrants. It was said that it is understandable that some members of certain ethnic groups want to live near each other, but there was also a concern that it will lead to isolation from the local population.

The refugee crisis of 2015 in Europe has impacted the respondents' views. They found that when immigration is steady and small-scale, and people arrive from different parts of the world, the migrants tend to blend more easily in the society. But when there is an uncontrolled flow of asylum seekers it makes some people suspicious and scared.

SLOVAKIA

Research setup

Four focus group interviews were carried out with a gender balance of 50% women and 50% men among the participants. Altogether 18 people took part in the interviews: 5 people were 15-18-years old, 4 people 19-24-years old, 4 people 25-29-years old, and 5 people 30-35-years old.

Results of the focus group interviews

Which types of migration do young people know of?

Most of the young people participating in the interviews were aware that an incentive for migration could either come from the person or due to outside circumstances. They identified:

- voluntary migration or moving away with a goal to work, study, or have an adventure.
- forced migration such as escaping a war, political regime, natural disaster, climate change etc.

Reasons for migrating are perceived by young people as serious, even urgent. Among the younger participants (19-24-years old) the issue was more often idealised, such as migrating for self-development or dream fulfilment. Some participants mentioned two types of migration – the migration of individuals and migration of groups of people. Young people talked a lot about migration for work. Economic migrants were perceived by young people as those who travel to a democratic country with higher living standards than their own.

One categorisation of migration that was touched upon was legal versus illegal. The participants mostly mentioned examples of migration across the national borders, but some also included examples of domestic migration. Young people with jobs, and especially those who commute to work from another region, were more likely to share the opinion that commuters are also migrants.

In terms of the time spent as a migrant or the role of a migrant, the participants distinguished between:

- short-term migration – including migration for studies or temporary work in a certain stage of life. According to many young people this also includes international tourism.
- long-term migration.

Also, young people (surprisingly also those 25+ years old) had semantic difficulties to distinguish between the terms “immigrant” and “emigrant”.

Who is a migrant?

In the eyes of the participants, a migrant is a person who moves away from home, travels longer distances, usually for a longer period, with a vision of seeking a better life and a positive change. The young people associated migrants with:

- people of different nationality, religion, race, or culture,
- diverse cuisines and culinary traditions of nations and ethnic groups, and international gastronomy,
- refugees and coverage of the recent refugee crisis in the media,

- themes and personal characteristics, e.g. uncertainty, helplessness, seeking refuge, better life, freedom, mettle, diligence etc,
- cultural abyss, adaptation (from both sides), (un-)desired assimilation.

The participants associated positive and neutral themes mainly with migrants from within Slovakia, and in contrast, negative themes with migrants arriving from/to different cultures. Self-reflection and perception of Slovaks as migrants is ambiguous, with a mixed level of emotions and experiences from the group, especially for 30+ years-old participants.

The participants had experienced migration either themselves or by their loved ones. The experience was associated with a positive contribution or a hope for something better. A proposed statement: "Slovakia is a country of "migrants"" (stimulus) provoked a dissenting stance in almost all young people (15-35-years-old). The self-identification with the term "migrant" was for them uncomfortable.

The young people in the study believed a person ceases to be a migrant but ceases if they settle down permanently or acquire the citizenship of their new country of residence.

What are the fears, questions, and myths regarding migration?

For some young people, migration is something questionable and unknown, and often the fear of the unknown is apparent even for those who had a personal experience of migrating. In their reflections on migration, especially young people aged 19+ years, participants expressed their different fears and commented on Slovakia's openness/closeness to immigrants. Concerns expressed came from both sides - from the local inhabitants ("we do not know who will come here") as well as the migrants (they do not know what to expect from the receiving country).

The participants articulated following fears and questions about migration:

- What would happen to the traditional faith of the majority in case of an eventual spread of another religion (e.g. Islam)?
- How could the (traditional) family be affected if problems arise from "mixed marriages", with different approaches to child-rearing deriving from different cultures of the partners?
- What would happen to national traditions and will the local and national culture disappear in the host country?
- How is health affected in a global society with a high level of mobility of people, which increases the risk of transmitting infectious diseases?
- The possible of influx of "inappropriate" migrants.
- Migrants not being accepted by the locals.
- Will the migrants receive benefits at the expense of the locals?
- Will the migrants take jobs (and earnings) from the locals or will the migrants find work at all?
- Will the migrants "fit in" and be culturally compatible and integrated into the local life?
- Will Slovakia be able to handle receiving migrants while there are unresolved issues of poverty, Roma segregations and "politicising" of minorities' statuses.

The participants expressed several myths regarding migrants. Opinions, such as that migrants exploit the system by relying on social benefits, all migrants are refugees, or migrants are problematic and dangerous, were voiced.

Is migration an important topic in society?

In the eyes of the participants, the topic of migration is perceived as important, necessary, current, modern, and global – but also complex, debatable, sensitive, and, given the general mood in the society, polarising. However, not everyone finds it interesting.

Particularly the older participants noted an overall lack of insight from the public, and untrustworthiness of the media's reporting on migrants. For the younger participants, the topic resonated more in relation to their future suggesting they were more aware of necessary social changes and expressed general curiosity towards a globalised world.

For the participants aged 30 years and older, it was important to have access to more detailed and comprehensive information on migration, including stories from countries experiencing high migration rates. Young people in general want to access more positive news on migration to balance out the negative news. It was expressed that Slovak people are not considered to be migrants because they are rarely portrayed as such in public debates.

The participants expressed that they expect the government to provide constructive solutions for the problem of the increasing number of people leaving Slovakia to work and study abroad because they are not satisfied with the conditions at home. They explained that people, including their loved ones, leave Slovakia with a certain detachment and cold rationality.

Young people perceived the integration of migrants as an important social issue. The older age group (30-35-years old) took a more reserved stance, especially towards migrants from other ethnic, racial, or cultural backgrounds to their own. They emphasised that migrants should "comply" with the rules of the host country and have limits to "what they are allowed to do". The younger participants took a kinder attitude, commenting on their own plans to travel for work, and showed a generally higher interest in integrating people from different backgrounds into Slovakian society.

The participants also pondered over the issues of security, the rights and freedoms of locals and "the others" (migrants), the geopolitical context of Slovakia, safety in Slovakia, and the labour force deficit in highly-skilled as well as low-income positions.

Which type of migration has the greatest impact on local life?

At first, the subject was addressed in a rather reserved manner from all age groups, with mostly implicit acknowledgment of the impacts of migration. After being prompted, the participants stated that the greatest impact on local life is caused by economic migrants, both those who came to or left Slovakia because of work.

The participants discussed the economic impact of migration in Slovakia. They expressed that along with migration, more know-how, innovation, capital, and ethos connected to change is brought to the society which leads to development, prosperity, higher standards of healthcare, education, and more trust towards the state institutions. They also mentioned that Slovakia is part of the "migration circle" of the EU countries, where people move to the West for better working conditions and income. They saw minimal to zero effect for the local economy if the work done by the migrants is illegal or poorly paid.

As for the impact of migration on cultural and social life, the participants were of the opinion that migration creates the possibility for native Slovaks to learn about another culture, but remarked that they can also gain that by travelling abroad. They also found that migrants can make the local

culture more diverse. However, the so-called economic migrants do not necessarily impact the cultural life in the region, if they are a minority; rather, migrants are believed to adapt to the local culture.

The participants took the view that people who are migrants from Slovakia (themselves or their family or friends) are trying to provide a living for their family. They also thought that Slovak people who return from abroad bring along acquired skills, and can start new businesses with a new cultural insight. Also, in their eyes the scientists and sportsmen from Slovakia who are successful abroad are an asset for the country as “they make a good name for Slovakia”.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Research setup

The research in the Czech Republic was conducted in two phases:

- desk study of available secondary data.
- primary data collection with semi-structured interviews.

The desk study gathered and analysed all available data from qualitative research produced after 2015 in the Czech Republic. It also gathered available qualitative research reports and one quantitative research report conducted after 2015.

The identified “knowledge gaps” served as a basis for the structure of the interviews. The interviews were designed as semi-structured to allow more flexibility in conversations while following a prepared framework reflecting the identified research questions. 14 interviews were conducted with participants from the age group 15-35. For the sake of analysis and comparison, the participants were divided into three age subgroups:

- students and pupils of elementary and secondary schools aged 15-20 (3 women, 2 men). This group comprised of students of gymnasiums, high schools, and secondary schools, as well as vocational schools.
- university students and young people aged 20-26 (3 women, 1 man). This subgroup included university students of both humanities and technical sciences, employees in the service sector and of transnational corporations.
- young people aged 26-35 (2 women, 3 men). The third subgroup included one unemployed person, a person working in a public institution, one person on parental leave, an employee of a private company, and an entrepreneur.

The participants in all three groups had various places of residence (capital city, smaller and middle-sized cities, countryside).

Results of the interviews

Which types of migration do young people know of?

The main distinction that everyone was aware of was emigrant vs. immigrant i.e. Czechs living abroad and people coming to the Czech Republic. The term “migrant” was mostly associated with immigrants. The participants were aware of the distinction between migrants and refugees. The term “economic migrant” was not used frequently. The main criteria for distinguishing between

migrants and refugees was whether their migration decision was voluntary, i.e. migrants are people who chose to leave, whereas refugees were forced to leave. When asked, the participants acknowledged that there are legal definitions of these terms, but they did not know them and did not consider them important.

When specifically asked about types of migration they know of, people either mentioned nationalities (Vietnamese, Ukrainians) or the above-mentioned distinction between people who had no choice and people who are simply looking for a better life. The most common type of migration known to the participants was thus economic migration, even though no one specifically used this term (they spoke about specific groups such as Vietnamese owning grocery shops or Ukrainian workers).

Who is a migrant?

The general definition used among the participants was “someone who has left their country of origin”. The participants did not usually elaborate much further or attach any specific judgment or meanings to the term “migrant” and they saw it as a neutral term. Most participants also mentioned that anyone can be a migrant at a certain stage of their life. For instance, they mentioned their own experiences of living abroad, working as an *au-pair*, studying as an Erasmus student etc. One of the participants also mentioned that even people moving intra-state (e.g. from countryside to the capital) can be considered migrants.

The most frequently mentioned groups are also the most numerous groups of migrants in the Czech Republic (Vietnamese and Ukrainians). According to the discussed definition, migrants are characterised by “otherness” – i.e. “they are people who are not like us”, and are not considered to be Czech. This was, however, not seen as negative or threatening. It was merely a tool of distinction and a way to make sense of the word “migrant”. The participants also mentioned that a migrant can become a local and that, for example, Slovaks are not Czechs, but are not considered to be different.

Refugees were not confused with migrants. Most of the participants were aware that there is a difference between the two. It seemed that the term “migrant” was used as a general term and the other terms such as immigrant, refugee and emigrant were used as sub-categories.

There was also a perceived difference between migrants from different parts of the world. For instance, someone from the USA was perceived as a different type of migrant compared to someone from the African continent. The difference was not clearly stated or explained.

What are the fears, questions, and myths regarding migration?

The main fear and negative emotions expressed by the participants around the issue of migration was the fear of migrants not being able to integrate into society. In the eyes of the participants, this can take many forms, i.e. they will not work, they will only take the money from the state, they will work for low wages and thus complicate the position of the locals on the labour market.

A majority of the fears expressed can be labelled as “economic”, i.e. targeting the economic situation, and perceived/lived precarity of the participants. The narrative of “they will enforce their customs upon us” was rarely mentioned, as opposed to the desk study results regarding the general population where this narrative seemed to be prevalent. The second most mentioned fear was cultural, i.e. “they” will not behave in a way “we” would like them to, “they” will be too loud, too arrogant (a comment most often mentioned in respect to the Russians).

Social norms are constitutive for fears around migration. All of the mentioned narratives are, in one way or another, about the possible disrespect of migrants towards local social norms, either on the labour market, in the place of residence, or in a public space. On the other hand, the participants also very often questioned the very same social norms. Some of the fears expressed were tied to the reaction of the Czech society, that the general attitude of Czechs towards immigration is negative. They were afraid that the polarised discussion around migration would change Czech society and were somehow “tired” of the discussion. It was evident that the discussion around migration was perceived as something that says as much about “us” as it says about “them”, yet another significant difference from the data describing the general population.

In general, while the fears discussed were hypothetical (what could happen), the positive experiences were presented as actual (what is already happening). The economic advantages of migration were highlighted, for example, that Ukrainians are hard workers and work in jobs that Czechs are not willing to do, while Vietnamese people are entrepreneurs who are always friendly to their customers and work a lot, as their shops are always open so people can get groceries more easily. This was a specific experiences from smaller cities, where the “Vietnamese shops” are the only places where people can shop on weekends or evenings. Food and gastronomy – such as kebabs, Vietnamese food, Indian food, and Chinese food – were mentioned often. Cultural diversity and learning new things were often mentioned by the younger participants (more predominant in groups 1 and 2 rather than in the group 3). The participants expressed their wish that the Czech Republic should be more open, and that people should have more shared experiences with migrants, because it would change Czechs for the better.

Is migration an important topic in society?

The participants were mostly undecided about the question. They felt that the issue is somehow important but struggled to articulate how exactly and why. When asked if migration is important for them personally, they mostly said no, but when asked about national level, they said yes. Many participants projected their answer to this question to the future, i.e. it is not as important now, but it will become more important in the future. At the same time, many participants were wary when talking about the topic and were trying to avoid discussing it, because it still causes conflicts with their family members and friends. There was a certain level of exhaustion with the issue. The participants would be happy not to think about it at all, but at the same time they felt it would not be wise, because it is better to stay informed.

The interviewees were annoyed by how the issue is discussed rather than by the issue itself. They felt that the media does not pay attention to migration outside of the intense news cycles when migration is linked to certain events. At the same time, they were not sure if they could trust all information presented in the media. They were tired and exhausted by all the negative feelings present in the public debate and in media coverage. On the other hand, they saw migration as an issue that will remain, and so people should learn to talk about it constructively.

Which type of migration has the greatest impact on local life?

In the eyes of the participants, economic migration has the greatest impact on local life: people working in publicly visible jobs such as Vietnamese shop owners or Ukrainian construction workers were seen as having the greatest impact, due to their presence in everyday life. Both positive and negative impacts linked to economic migration were discussed. Migrants working in difficult jobs and making life easier for “us”, or Czech natives, such as Vietnamese people working in their shops until midnight, was seen in a positive light, but also the very same migrants might make it more

difficult for “us”, or Czech natives, to get a decently paid job. The participants expressed that the “real” impact of migration is still something to be seen in the future. There was a sense that “it is only the beginning”, i.e. some participants expressed a certain fear, but almost all agreed that the impact of migration is inevitable.

POLAND

Research Setup

The research in Poland was conducted in two phases:

- desk study of available secondary data.
- primary data collection from semi-structured interviews in focus groups.

The desk study gathered data from the available qualitative and quantitative research reports conducted in Poland after 2015.

Two interviews were conducted with people from the age group 15-35. For the sake of analysis and comparison, the participants were divided into two subgroups:

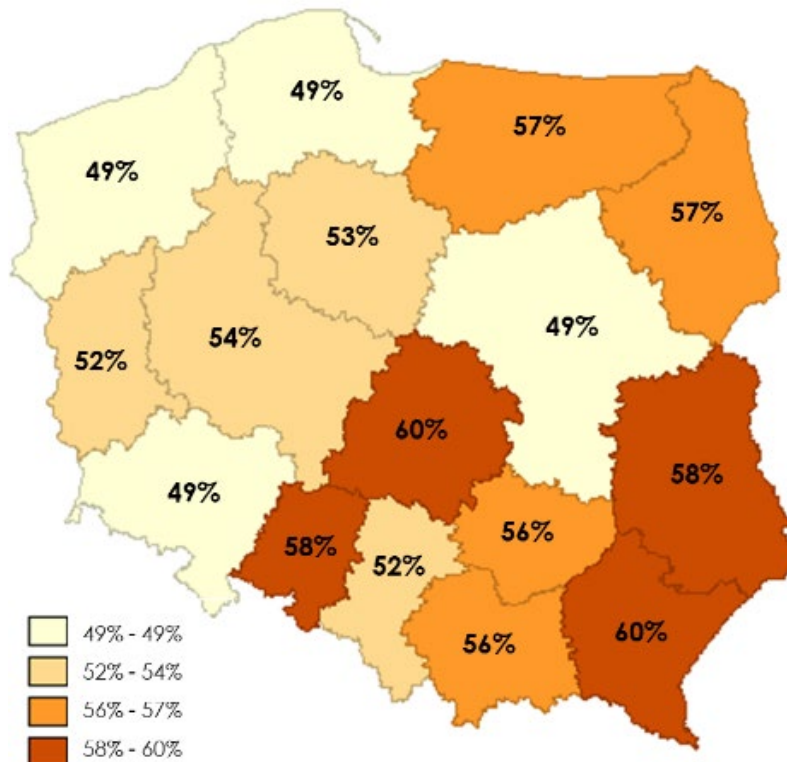
- students of the higher educational institutions and secondary school students aged 15-20 (4 women, 2 men),
- university students and young people aged 21-35 (4 women, 2 men). This subgroup included university students and employees from different industries (food, fashion, the creative industry, and shipbuilding sector).

Review of national studies in Poland regarding views on migration

Perceptions of migration, and especially attitudes towards welcoming refugees, varies significantly depending on age, education level, and location. In the survey from 2017 on this topic,⁹ people were asked about receiving refugees from countries affected by war, and refugees from the Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine (Figure 17). The representatives of *Łódź* and *Podkarpackie* provinces were the least friendly towards receiving refugees, with 60% respondents against it, as well as *Lubelskie* and *Opolskie* provinces within which 58% were against it. The opposition towards receiving refugees was smaller among the people of *Pomorskie*, *Zachodniopomorskie*, *Mazowieckie* and *Dolnośląskie* provinces (49% against welcoming the refugees).

⁹ CBOS (2017). Attitude towards taking in refugees. Research information. Warsaw: CBOS. Downloaded from: https://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2017/K_001_17.PDF

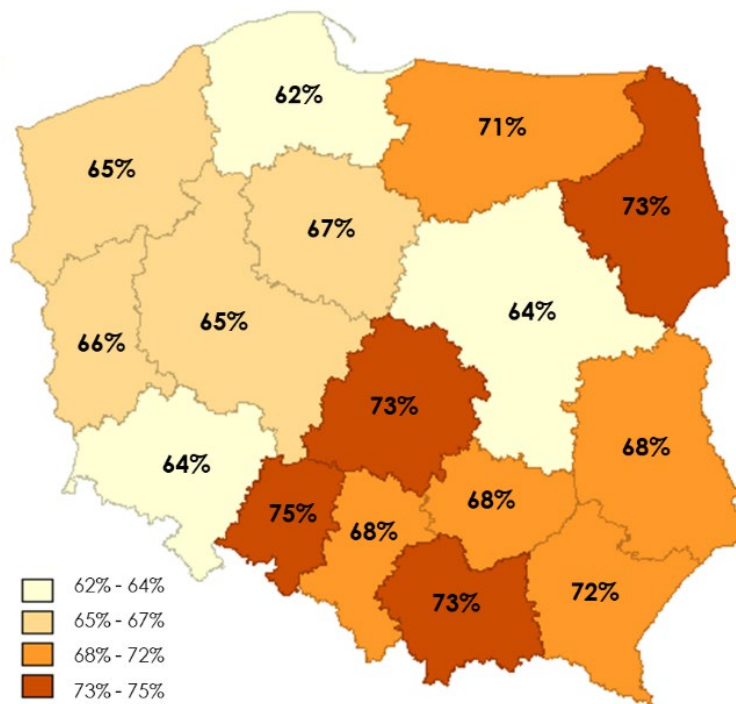
Figure 17. Attitudes towards receiving refugees from war affected countries in provinces – percent of “no, Poland should not accept refugees” answer.



Source: Based on „Stosunek Polaków do przyjmowania uchodźców”, CBOS, Warsaw 2017

Distinguishing refugees from the Middle East and Africa from the overall number of refugees, led to the conclusion that the former ones were especially unwelcome by the Poles. Similarly, with the previous results, some regional differences were observed (Figure 18). The most sceptical towards receiving such refugees were the inhabitants of *Opolskie* (75%), as well as *łódzkie*, *Małopolskie* and *Podlaskie* provinces (73%). The least critical about receiving refugees from the Middle East and Africa were respondents from *Pomorskie* (62%), *Mazowieckie* and *Dolnośląskie* provinces (64%).

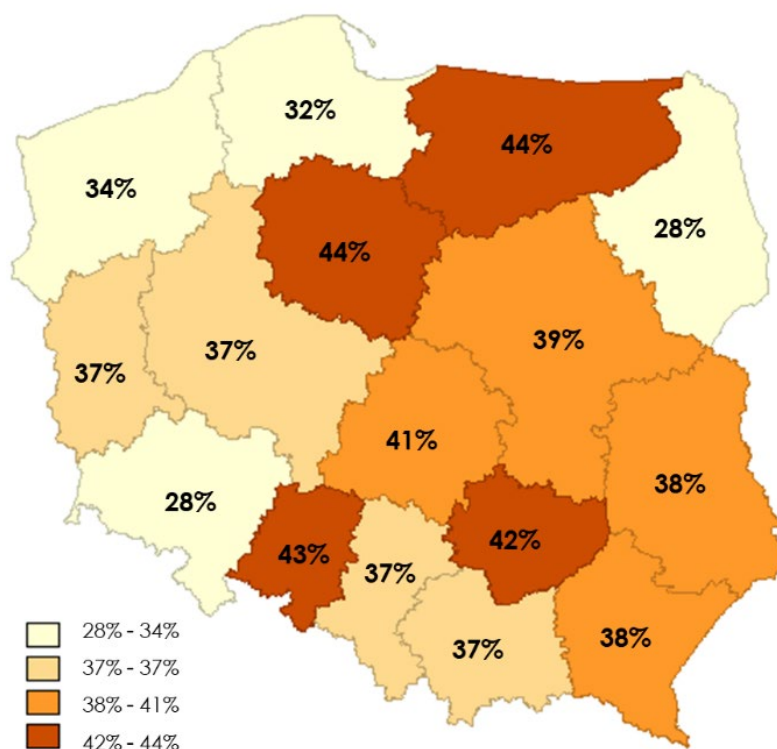
Figure 18. Attitude towards welcoming refugees from the Middle East and Africa in provinces – percent of “no, Poland should not accept refugees” answer.



Source: Elaboration based on „Stosunek Polaków do przyjmowania uchodźców”, CBOS, Warsaw 2017

Refugees from Ukraine were the most welcomed group of refugees included in the survey (Figure 19). The *Opolskie* province once again was among the least accepting regions, together with *Warmińsko-Mazurskie*, *Kujawsko-Pomorskie*, *Świętokrzyskie* and *Łódź* provinces. The most accepting of refugees from the Ukraine were once again representatives of *Pomorskie* and *Dolnośląskie* provinces together with inhabitants of *Podlaskie* and *Zachodniopomorskie* provinces.

Figure 19. Attitude towards receiving refugees from Ukraine in provinces – percent of “no, Poland should not accept refugees” answer.



Source: Elaboration based on „Stosunek Polaków do przyjmowania uchodźców”, CBOS, Warsaw 2017

Based on replies to the three questions, the least welcoming are the inhabitants of Southern and Eastern parts of Poland, particularly from the *Opolskie*, *Podkarpackie* and *Lubelskie* provinces together with the Central Poland - *Łódź* province.

Results of the focus group interviews

Which types of migration do young people know of?

The following migration types were identified by the respondents:

- gainful travel – its purpose is to improve the family's financial situation; this type of migration in general is referred to as "voluntary". During the interview it was stated that it could also be "forced" when someone has a very difficult financial situation and would not be able to support themselves and their family in Poland/their home country,
- touristic trip – less frequently indicated as a type of migration; more often referred to as a trip to another country that allows “absolute freedom of movement”,
- refugee – mostly treated by respondents as a migration subtype, distinguished by its forced nature; respondents associate the term "refugee" with the search for asylum, the need for assistance, and escaping from a political crisis in their country,
- joining a partner living abroad – people who leave their country to live with a foreign partner.

When asked about migration types, respondents did not point to such typology as "immigrant-emigrant". When asked about these terms, some of them were able to offer definitions. They pointed out that an emigrant is a person who leaves their country of origin, while an immigrant is a

person coming to the country. People aged 21-35 were able to distinguish between a migrant and a refugee. The word "immigrant" was perceived to have negative associations.

Young Poles gave various reasons for migration, including economic and touristic, or unfavourable political situations in countries of origin (such as for refugees). At the same time, they indicated that they associate migrants with people who had "voluntarily moved" for some specific purpose, whereas refugees are associated with "forced movement". On the other hand, the interviewees had knowledge gaps about is the difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker.

Some participants expressed admiration for immigrants for daring to change their lives to improve their situation. As an example, Ukrainians who come to Poland to work and send wages to their loved ones, were mentioned.

Some interviewees considered the word "migration" strange; commenting that they do not like to use it. The participants also stated that a person who migrates to Poland, resides for a long time and acquires Polish citizenship remains an immigrant in their eyes. At the same time some of them did not perceive themselves as immigrants in the country where they resided for studies or work. It is also worth mentioning that young people do not consider family or friends who have left the country to be migrants. Instead of the verb "to migrate", they used terms such as: to leave, to settle elsewhere, to work or to live elsewhere.

What are the fears, questions, and myths regarding migration?

The interviewees expressed some concerns in relation to migrants. They were afraid that migrants would impose on Poland's traditional culture and customs. At the same time, they stressed that migrants are perceived in a negative way they due to their portrayal in the media.

Some of the interviewees supported openness to other ethnic and cultural groups, however they also expressed a wish for the state to maintain control over the borders.

A positive aspect of cultural exchange with immigrants mentioned was the increase of tolerance, sensitivity, and openness of Poles towards other cultures. However, some believed that people should be "checked" for their ability to adapt to Polish culture. Muslims were accused of slandering some population groups, particularly women.

Among the concerns of participants was migrants living off social security benefits. According to some, aid for refugees is a burden for the Poles. Giving support to refugees in Poland was claimed by some respondents to be unjust, believing the poor from Polish families should be supported first. Some respondents were afraid that the influx of refugees may worsen the country's economic situation and consequently increase taxes. Young people believed that many refugees are not poor, on the contrary, they have good clothes and electronic equipment, and therefore, they should not be entitled to any social assistance. Young Poles had number of judgmental views and biases towards Muslims and people from the Middle East.

Is migration an important topic in society?

When asked about migration, young people considered it an important topic because it is a social phenomenon that concerns the whole world, and therefore also affects Poland. Moreover, it is an increasing phenomenon which makes the topic relevant and should not be ignored. In addition, they

added that individuals in society should have knowledge of migration, not only the political leaders, in order to make the right decisions. At the same time, one should form their opinion based on facts and not prejudices.

The interviewed participants mentioned that nowadays everyone in the country knows someone who has emigrated from Poland, and often their relatives are among Polish emigrants.

According to the interviewees, the topic of migration is most often discussed with family members and close friends. It is slightly less discussed at university campuses or in work environments. However, there is no real discussion on the Internet, since there is no constructive conversation, instead often the debate features online hate-speech. Nevertheless, young people think that the topic is important, but it is often downplayed because it is uncomfortable for many people to discuss.

Which type of migration has the greatest impact on local life?

Young people who participated in the focus group interviews saw both positive and negative impacts of migration. A positive was the possibility of learning about a new culture or country. They stressed that immigrants do not contribute to unemployment, but rather take up jobs that are unattractive to Poles, thus benefitting the Polish economy.

Negative aspects mentioned included misunderstandings and conflicts caused by the clash of different cultures. It was expressed that migrants should abide with the rules and social norms of the country and Poles who go to other countries should comply with the rules and traditions of the receiving country.

The level of impact varies by the type of migration. Young people in the focus groups believed that forced migration influences the host country less than migration for economic reasons, which impacts the economy positively. Forced migration, on the other hand, was perceived more negatively.

Conclusion

Types of migration

In general, young people in Estonia, Finland, Slovakia, Poland, and the Czech Republic acknowledge and are aware of different types of migration. Migration is viewed as part of the inevitable phenomenon of the modern world. Young people can distinguish between different reasons for migrating as well as different types of migration.

The best-known type of migration among the young people in all five countries was migration for economic reasons, i.e. migration for employment, to seek better living conditions, or an improved standard of living. The youth in all the countries also distinguished voluntary and forced migration. The young people in Estonia, Poland and Slovakia also distinguished between legal and illegal migration.

The younger respondents in Finland and Slovakia associated migration with gaining new experiences, self-development, and broadening their horizons. Thus, they tended to idealise migration (dreaming of some day moving to another country to study/work) compared to the older participants who had a more practical view (migration is more of a necessity). This was also similar in Estonia, where the older participants saw migration as inevitable and associated it with globalisation.

The young Finns stressed the importance of human rights the most when speaking about migration. While the topic of immigrants as a burden on the state and the need to regulate and control immigration came up in all countries' interviews, the young people in Finland stressed the importance of helping people in need.

Who is a migrant?

In all countries, migrants were associated with people who leave their country of origin. The time factor was also important in deciding who is a migrant and who is a visitor/traveller. For example, the youth (15-20-year olds) in Estonia clearly distinguished migrants from travellers. For the youth in the Czech Republic anyone can be a migrant at one point in their life (including studying/working abroad etc.). For the young respondents in Slovakia, a person ceases to be a migrant if they settle down permanently or acquire the citizenship of the host country.

The youth in the Czech Republic and Slovakia mostly talked about immigrants when asked about who a migrant is. The young people in Slovakia saw migrants from Slovakia (emigrants) in a more positive light than, for example, a migrant arriving from a different culture. Immigrants coming from culturally or ethnically similar countries are more accepted than immigrants from distant countries and continents who feature a visibly different culture, religion, colour of skin etc.

The fears, questions, and myths around migration

For most of the young people in all five countries, the general attitude toward migration, immigration and emigration was positive. However, the main fear regarding immigration was related to immigrants not being able to integrate into society. The young people in Estonia and Finland were especially concerned about their countries' culture and traditions disappearing if immigration is not regulated by the state. This concern was also brought up in the interviews in Slovakia, the main fear

being the eventual spread of a foreign religion. The young people in Slovakia were the only ones to mention concerns about health in the global society with the mobility of people increasing risks of transmitting infectious diseases.

Refugees, illegal immigrants, or immigrants with different ethnic or racial backgrounds were discussed with more negative biases and myths surrounding them. For example, the youth in all countries gave examples of immigrants living together in local areas mostly populated by their fellow countrymen, not working, or not benefitting the country or the local community. However, at the same time almost all of them still argued that they are open to people from different ethnic and racial backgrounds as long as they respect their country, make an effort to integrate and do not “force” their own culture upon the locals. In a conflicting manner, the young people in Estonia, for example, expressed that immigrants enrich the culture of the host country, but at the same time they should adapt to the Estonian culture as soon as possible. A lot of these negative associations seemed to be influenced by the media covering issues related to migration in a one sided or negative manner.

In several countries (e.g. the Czech Republic, Estonia and Poland) the fears about immigration were talked about as hypothetical situations (what could happen in future), while the positive experiences with migrants were presented as actual (what is already happening or what the interviewees had experienced).

In most cases young people see immigrants as benefitting the economy of the receiving country. The prevailing views (in Estonia, Finland and the Czech Republic) categorised migrants as beneficial to the society if they work, especially if they are willing to take up jobs that the locals do not wish to perform.

Migration as an important topic in society

The youth in all the countries considered the topic important in society, even if it was not directly important for themselves. One common theme was frustration with the media and how negatively immigrants are portrayed. Moreover, the young people in Finland added that current discussions on migration focus too much on the problems, and too little on problem-solving. There is a need for more positive, educational, balanced, solution-oriented, and fact-based discussions in the media according to the young people in all the countries.

Young people in the Czech Republic seemed to be most undecided about whether migration is considered an important topic or not. They expressed that they do not really care about this topic, but on the other hand they feel that it is still better to be informed rather than uninformed.

Migration's impact on local life

The impact of migration was mostly associated with economic impact. The young people in all participating countries expressed the thought that emigration could either be negative (people leave; thus, the state loses labour force and tax payers) or positive (people who come back have gained new knowledge and experiences).

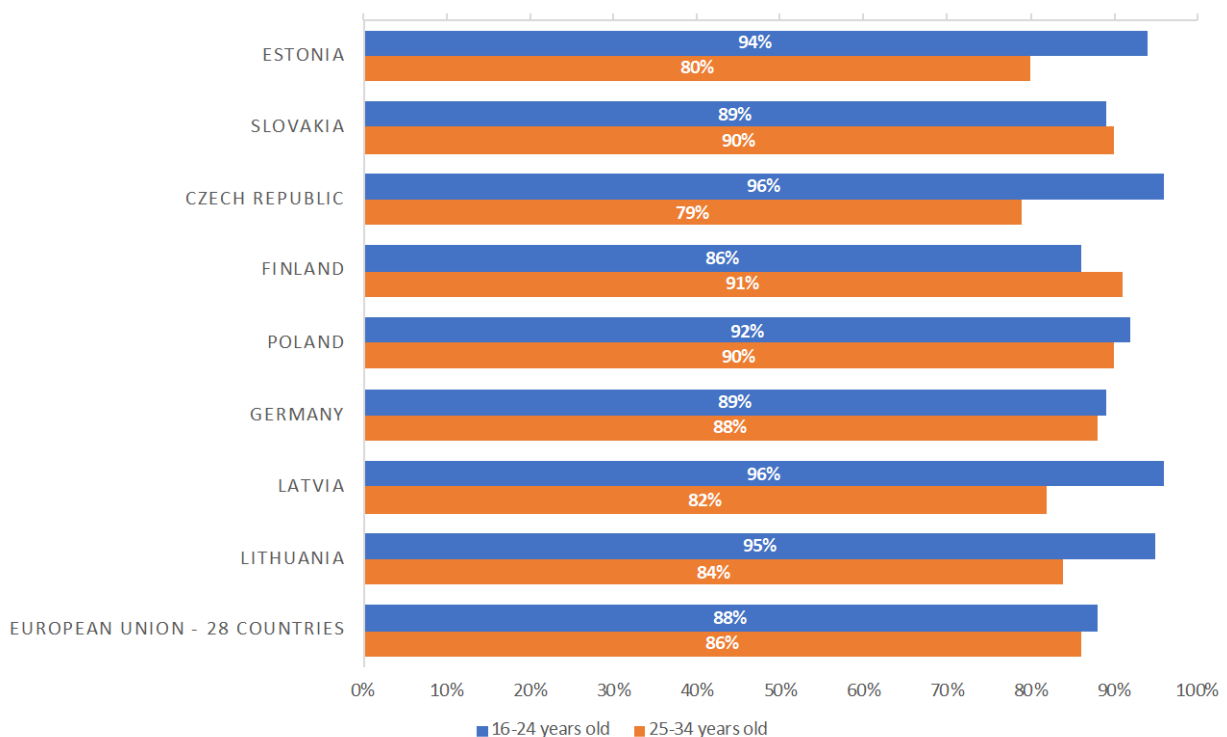
Young people also associated the impact of migration with a more versatile and culturally diverse society. The young people in Finland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic all mentioned a more diverse culinary scene as a positive impact of migration. On the other hand, almost all participants still expected immigrants to blend into the society and not stand out with their own cultural identity and

traditions outside of their ethnic cuisine. Unlimited arrival of immigrants into a country was perceived as a problem by young people in all the countries analysed.

3. Internet and social media usage overview

Internet and social media usage by young people have been increasing over the years and is higher compared to older generations in the EU. Eurostat 2019 data show that in all selected countries, the percentage of young people participating in social networks is very high (Figure 20). In most selected countries, the 16-24-year olds participate in social networks a bit more than 25-34-year olds. This difference is particularly evident in the case of the Czech Republic where 79% of 25-35-year olds participate in social media networks compared to 96% of 16-24-year olds. A similar pattern occurs in Estonia and Latvia where the difference between participation in social media networks for the 16-24 and 25-34 age groups is 14 percentage points. However, it is the opposite for youth in Finland – where the 25-34-year olds who participate in social media networks are at 5 percentage points more than 16-24-year olds.

Figure 20. Percentage of individuals participating in social networks by age group and country, 2019



Source: Eurostat, 2019

Looking into what social media networks and sites are used by the young people, it is clear that Facebook is still the most used social networking site in Europe (ca. 70%). In 2019 the most used social media sites in Estonia were also Facebook (57%), followed by Pinterest (23%), Twitter (7%) and Instagram (4%)¹⁰. However, for the younger age groups in Estonia: YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat are the most popular social media sites/apps. According to a social media study conducted in 2019 among 1721 students in Estonia, if students could choose only one social media site/app then YouTube (44%) followed by Instagram (22%) would be their preference¹¹.

¹⁰ <https://gs.statcounter.com/social-media-stats/all/estonia/#yearly-2019-2019-bar>

¹¹ <https://milos.ee/eesti-koolilaste-sotsiaalmeedia-kasutuse-uuring/>

Results of the focus group interviews

Estonia

Young people (15-20-year olds) in Estonia use mostly Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube as their main social media sites. When asked who they follow on social media, the participants in the younger focus group mentioned mainly famous musicians and actors in Estonia. The age of the people they follow does not matter to them. The participants in the younger focus group also mentioned that they like to follow and listen to people who are sincere in what they are talking about, and that if the person has a story to tell or the young person has a personal connection with what the person is advertising or sharing.

The participants in the older focus group (21-35-year olds) also use mainly Facebook (however many of them only use Facebook messenger and less often Facebook), Instagram, and YouTube. They tend to use YouTube to discover new music or to watch content related to their interests and hobbies. Facebook is for them somewhat a more formal site than Instagram for example. On Facebook they follow organisations, politicians, and others but Instagram is more for keeping up with what their friends are doing. When asked about who they follow, they mostly mentioned some organisations and content creators in Estonia like Evert Poom, Hensugusta, and Brigitte Susanne Hunt. When asked about what/who draws them in and makes them listen on social media the young participants mentioned:

- asking questions through Instagram stories is engaging,
- humour (was mentioned several times) and stand-up comics like Ari-Matti Mustonen or Mattias Naan,
- some do not like videos, but rather pictures/posters,
- videos should not be too long,
- videos should have subtitles so you can mute the video, but still get the point,
- personal stories (*kogemuslood*).

Finland

The participants in the Finnish focus group interviews follow media/social media quite a lot. The most popular social media sites they follow are Instagram, Jodel, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. The people/content creators they follow vary a lot from Pewdiepie and Mmiisas to Sanna Marin and Sauli Niinistö. It could be the exceptional times we are facing now, but there seems to be a clear divide in the participants' media usage. On the other hand, it is for fun and entertainment (mostly social media) and then there is a clear need for a serious, reliable newsfeed. Marin and Niinistö have been highly active during the Corona-outbreak and this could explain why many mentioned them in the conversation.

YLE was seen to be the most credible media source and many follow it regularly. Other credible sources mentioned were Helsingin Sanomat and Suomen Kuvalehti. Many stated that you should not believe everything you read, but rather to use some common source criticism.

However, the majority said that they could not name any single spokesperson regarding issues around migration. Many said that they prefer to read about these issues from several sources to form their own opinion, because the discussions regarding migration are always polarised and filled with emotions. In addition, the topic is so big that it would not be credible to have just one spokesperson backing it. Still, one mentioned Sanna Marin and Sauli Niinistö as good candidates.

Arman Alizad was mentioned by two respondents as a good, credible reporter who has covered serious issues in his programmes. In addition, Annastina Heikkilä and Riku Rantala were also mentioned. The participants appreciate credibility that comes from solid facts and an ability to justify by reason.

It was also said that people should listen to individual persons and their stories about migration to broaden minds, but they are not thought of as credible sources of facts as such.

Politicians tend to divide the opinions and would, thus, not be the best candidates for a spokesperson.

Slovakia

For young people, a credible person is someone who has been working on the topic for a long time, has the necessary erudition, is well-travelled and can offer information from experience (e.g. someone who "works with numbers and immigrants"). While people in their thirties described a competent "interpreter" of the subject as an "older person, tested by life", (mature) age did not play such a role for the youngsters.

The person talking about migration should be authentic, believable, consistent (in what they say and do), as well as likeable. Young people should be able to relate to the person, through common interests or life parallels. Younger people are more interested in people expressing their views and opinions concisely. It is also important, that they know the topic "throughout".

Popularity was more important for the younger participants in Slovakia. Among those who, in their view, influence public opinions are musicians/rappers (Separ, Rytmus), sportsmen, comedians (Fero Joke), and other celebrities well established in the industry, or actively producing content on social media, such as radio host Sajfa or model Michaela Kocianova. To them, an influencer is someone, who has a "unique personality", their posts show originality and provide entertainment. It appeared that locality is also important - especially the younger people follow "regional" youtubers from their region/hometown.

Young people (25+) said that they would like to hear recognised experts from different fields talking about migration. They were not sure who it should be, but they would trust scientists with a relevant focus (e.g. ethnologist), travellers (Pavol Barabáš), priests, doctors, athletes working abroad, artists. Among the younger ones, names suggested included the singer Celeste Buckingham, who is considered a good ambassador for them due to her "international" origin, but also (someone like) Gandhi, "who not only talked about the topic, but also really worked on it".

Politicians/government officials as spokespersons for the migration issues evoked mixed feelings in young people. Some are regarded to have authority and competence to comment on the topic, or even expertise, as they work with statistics and travel, i.e. can draw on knowledge from experience. In contrast, many young people are sceptical and do not trust politicians' intentions. A similar attitude applied to journalists, partly because of their general mistrust in the media.

Czech Republic

The main source of information for young Czechs is often the media, but mostly because there is a lack of other information sources. All the interviewees expressed some doubts as to whether the media is doing a good job on informing about migration.

The young people interviewed said that they lack information on how the refugee camps look like, what the procedures are, how many migrants are there in Europe, how successful they are, what we can expect next, how to manage migration successfully, and what the solutions are.

When asked whom they follow on social media, the following celebrities were mentioned: Erik Tabery, Petr Pavel, Petr Ludwig, Tomáš Sedláček, Emma Smetana, Tomáš Klus, Eva Holubová, and Kamu (Kamila Rundusová).

An authority on a topic is ideally a combination of two characteristics: someone who has personal experience with the issue and, at the same time, has some type of personal relationship to the interviewee (for example a family member who works at the ministry, an aunt who is a journalist etc.). Public personas and opinion leaders are important, but the participants people they know personally the most. They see it as a reassurance if person seems to not have any “agenda”. Some respondents also mentioned NGOs (e.g. People in Need, SIMI, Doctors Without Borders) who work with migrants.

Poland

Young people in Poland use various social media platforms. Facebook or Twitter were mentioned, but special interest is towards Instagram and its functionality in the form of instastories. Posts posted on Facebook are also immensely popular, but as young people pointed out, they do not shape their opinion based on a single post or article. They check the reliability of the information by analysing information from several sources.

People in the age group of 21-35 are also obtaining most of their information from social media (Facebook, Instagram), but also from news and discussion programmes. When looking for information, they check the reliability by looking at the person providing the information and the type of sources. They believe that we live in a time when it is difficult to find a reliable source of information. However, information from social media is perceived to be more reliable for young people, as well as information presented by a larger number of independent websites/portals and supported by photos, videos or links to older articles. In addition, according to them, it is more reliable to present photos and authorial videos, i.e. by people who saw the situation, and then to confront it with other photos and videos - so what is important is looking at the given information from different perspectives.

Recommendations

These recommendations are drafted with a goal to help design and implement a social media campaign on the issues around migration:

- The overall knowledge of who is an asylum seeker, or a refugee is low among young people. The campaign should address the differences between various types of migrants and try to overthrow myths and misconceptions such as that asylum seekers are illegal immigrants. The campaign should feature **human rights language** (such as “people have a right to flee persecution, violence, and conflict”) and **personal stories of asylum seekers/refugees**. When choosing language and messaging in the campaign, it should be borne in mind that

many young people expressed migration debate fatigue and frustration with the negative and polarising discussions.

- The young people interviewed considered their own migration as a natural and inevitable part of modern life and consider the possibility to choose one's country of residence as almost a basic right. They did not, however, perceive people migrating from non-European countries as "natural". The immigrants from other, especially non-European, countries are expected to be "useful" or economically viable to the country who receives them. This reveals biases and hidden racist perceptions about who can migrate. The campaign should address the hidden and blatant racist biases that young people have and **promote justice and equality regardless of a person's colour of skin, race, or ethnic background**.
- In most countries studied, the young people believe a number of myths about migrants, such as that immigrants form closed-off areas of dwelling in cities and communities, migrants live off social benefits, or that certain religious communities do not respect the rights of certain population groups. The campaign should address these myths and try to offer alternative concepts, stories, and ideas about migrants. For example, if some of the myths are about the Muslim community not respecting the rights of women, a Muslim woman engaged in human rights work could be chosen to be the spokesperson in the campaign.
- In several countries, the young people perceived themselves to be more tolerant than the older members of society. Analysis of their views about migration could question the depth of their tolerance, as often they would voice the same myths about migrants as other population groups. If the campaign could spark sincere discussions over how far does the tolerance of the young people go and its limits, how entitled do young people in the European societies feel, and knowledge of their own privileges, it could bring the debate over migration to another level.
- In the cases of Estonia and Finland, young people expressed fears that immigrants may endanger the local culture and customs. The campaign in these countries might address migration as the possible **enricher of a country's cultural, linguistic, ethnic, religious, and culinary scene**. In other countries (e.g. Slovakia), migrants diversifying the local cultural and culinary life was mentioned side by side with concerns that the immigrants should comply with the local rules and traditions. This raises questions about whether young people really understand cultural diversity and how deep their openness goes to accept someone from another cultural and ethnic background. That immigrants mainly bring new tastes and food products to a society is a cliché enforcement which should be avoided in the campaign.
- In several countries the young people held neoliberalist and meritocratic views of people bringing value to countries and not the other way around. The acceptability of an immigrant was weighed against the question of whether they can be economically useful (e.g. pay taxes and create value measured in money). Therefore, the campaign should address the topic of people having the **right to live and flourish in a society regardless of their origin and economic status** (e.g. employed or unemployed, student etc.).
- Young people use a wide variety of social media platforms, therefore, to reach them through a campaign, the campaign visuals must be attractive, and use humour and personal stories to attract attention. The videos should be short and subtitled.
- Although young people follow a variety of institutions and individuals on social media, their primary source of news and info on migration is **mainstream media**. It could be argued that if the awareness raising campaign materials, even if designed for social media purposes, could be distributed also in the mainstream media their impact on young people might be

stronger. In all countries, however, young people expressed fatigue and criticism towards how the media covers migration. Young people were sensitive to public debates polarising families and communities with simplistic and antagonistic side taking. Young people expect debates and news on migration to be more fact-based, solution seeking, and positive.

Partners

“I Am European” project is designed and managed by **seven European partners** in six countries and built on these partners’ previous experiences with migration and youth:

- **Czech Republic, People in Need** for more than 25 years operates in several dozen countries around the world providing humanitarian relief, supporting developments projects, educational and human rights programs and has become one of the biggest non-profit organisations in Central Europe. Within the project, we focus on awareness-raising among youth - especially young journalists and teachers - about the complexity of global processes and reasons behind migration. <https://www.clovekvtisni.cz/en/>
- **Estonia, NGO Mondo** is the largest Estonian non-profit organisation devoted to development cooperation, global education and humanitarian aid. Mondo is lead partner of the IAE project and responsible for implementing project activities in Estonia. www.mondo.org.ee
- **Estonia, VURR** is responsible for creating the social media concept for all partner countries and implementing it in the Baltics. The objective of the social media campaign is to build empathy, understanding and increase awareness on migration with pan-European effect. At the heart of the social media campaign are real people with real experiences and stories of migration. <https://vurr.ee>
- **Finland, VIKES**, the Finnish Foundation of Media and Development, is a journalists’ solidarity organization specialized in freedom of expression and media. Vikes is responsible for organising international trainings and study trips for journalists, and for implementing the project activities in Finland. <https://vikes.fi>
- **Germany, Migration Matters (MM)** aims to make public debate and media coverage about migration, refugee, and diversity issues more nuanced and evidence-based through educational videos made freely accessible online. MM is responsible for producing visual stories for consortium use in social media campaigns, journalist and teacher trainings, and other global education activities. <https://migrationmatters.me>
- **Poland, The Center for Citizenship Education (CCE)** is the largest educational non-governmental organization in Poland aimed at supporting teachers to bring to school methods and topics that help students engage in their education and better cope with the challenges of the modern world. CCE is responsible for coordinating the international working group developing concept and competences framework to the educational materials of the consortium. <https://ceo.org.pl/>.
- **Slovakia, PIN SK** role in the project is focused especially on the target groups of teachers, journalists and the youth. PIN Slovakia’s aim in this project is to distort dominant false narratives in Slovakia about migration and help people to realise migration is part of our national psyche that we heavily rely on and have personal experience in every single family. www.clovekvhrozeni.sk.