

The past years there has been much debate on immigrant integration and the role of integration policies. So far little is known about if and how policies affect integration. This dissertation examines the relationship between integration policies and the socio-cultural integration of Turkish immigrants and their children. The study focuses on three countries with historically different integration policy regimes; France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Socio-cultural integration is divided into two dimensions: host country adoption and ethnic retention. The results from analyses of telephone survey data and in-depth interviews show several cross-national differences, though generally modest in size. Policies that grant immigrants a high degree of individual equality (e.g. accessible citizenship, protection from discrimination) have a positive effect on the degree of host country adoption. Policies that accommodate diversity (multiculturalist policies) have a negative impact on host culture adoption, with the exception of identification. The effect of policies on the degree of ethnic retention appears to be limited.

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Comparing Integration

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Host culture adoption and ethnic retention among Turkish immigrants and their descendants in France, Germany and the Netherlands

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