



Migration Summit: Launch of Settling In

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**9 December 2018
Marrakesh, Morocco**

Dear colleagues, Dear EU Commissioner Avramopoulos and Minister Hussen, Distinguished Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to be here with you today to launch one of our most important reports: "*Settling In 2018 – Indicators of Immigrant Integration*". This is the work of a three-year long collaboration between the European Commission and the OECD; I would therefore like to thank the European Commission for their support and excellent co-operation in the preparation of this report.

There is no better place and time to launch *Settling In* than here in Morocco, at the occasion of the adoption of the Global Compact of Migration which focuses on enabling migrants to fulfil their economic and their social potential. This also goes to the heart of *Settling In*.

Settling In: The importance of presenting the solid facts on integration

Through its 74 Indicators, *Settling In* documents the integration outcomes of immigrants and their children in all EU and OECD countries, as well as in selected non-OECD G20 countries; it is the largest collection of facts on integration worldwide. *Settling In* not only provides benchmarks and identifies common challenges across countries, it also fosters peer learning on what works and what does not.

The comparison between EU countries, on the one hand, and those OECD countries that were 'settled' by immigration, on the other hand, is particularly promising in this respect. As such, it is a particular pleasure to have the Canadian Minister for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Ahmed Hussen, with us here today, as there is a lot to learn from your experience and your country, Canada, which is one of the worldwide leaders in the integration of immigrants.

Solid facts on migrants' outcomes today are key to an evidence-based public discourse on migration. For example, we find in *Settling In* that public opinion in Europe is polarised with respect to the benefits of migration. About half of the native-born hold no particular view on whether immigrants make their country a better or a worse place to live in. The other half believe in equal proportions that immigrants exert either a positive or a negative overall effect on their country.

Solid facts are also a precondition for migrant empowerment and social inclusion. Again, the picture that we see here is much better than often depicted in public discourse and by the media. Migrants are more likely to be in employment than the native-born – partly because they have accepted jobs below their level of qualifications – and more than 80% of immigrants report feeling close to or very close to their country of residence.

Monitoring changes in integration outcomes is also an important element in assessing the success of new policies that we have seen in many EU and OECD countries, often in reaction to the significant increases in migration inflows. Migrant integration is put at risk by prejudices and stereotypes that provide a biased picture that does not mirror the facts. For example, migration has reached record highs in recent years. Despite this, new migrants settling in the OECD every year represent less than 0.5% of its population.ⁱ And while these inflows are relatively small, we should not neglect the longstanding presence of all migrants and their native-born children, who make up more than one in six persons in OECD countries.ⁱⁱ

Integration progress and challenges

Settling In also highlights the clear progress that has been made on several fronts regarding the integration of migrants in recent years. For example, outcomes improve with the length of stay in the host country, and from one generation to the next. We also find that many indicators now look better than ten years ago.

In total there are 13 million more immigrants employed in the OECD in 2016 than in 2006, despite the economic crisis and the large refugee inflow. This is also because countries made important improvements in their policies to foster integration of immigrants and their children into education, the labour market and the social life of their country. Nevertheless, much remains to be done.

One in six people in OECD countries today is either foreign-born or has a foreign-born parent. It is therefore evident that we cannot achieve inclusive growth unless their skills and potential are fully developed. This means they have to be well-integrated!

All too often, the country of origin of an individual and his or her parents affect individual life chances, as immigrants lack knowledge about the functioning of the host country's labour market, education system and society at large. In addition, we see growing concerns among populations regarding the ability of governments to deal effectively with the challenge of integration. Poor outcomes of immigrants and their children also constrain the political space in better managing future migration, notably with respect to resorting to labour migration to meet labour needs.

Immigrant women: an enormous potential

This edition of *Settling In* pays particular attention to the integration of immigrant women. Let me stress that although immigrant women represent an enormous potential, not enough attention has been devoted to this group in both policy-making and the public debate – we need to change that.

Women's immigration has grown disproportionately over the past decade and now accounts for 51% of all migrants in EU and OECD countries. This means that it will not be possible to reach gender equality targets if we do not pay more attention to this group.

Settling In shows that a full 38% of immigrant women have tertiary education; this is a higher share than among both foreign- and native-born men, and higher than for native-born women. However, migrant women struggle to put their skills to good use. In the OECD, 77% of immigrant men have jobs, compared with 74% among native-born men. In contrast, only 59% of immigrant women are in employment.

Gaps between the employment rates of foreign-and native-born women are especially wide in Belgium and France, at 14 percentage points, and in the Netherlands, at almost 17 points. Indeed, gaps tend to be larger in Europe: for example the unemployment rate among immigrant women is 50% higher than among native-born women.

Last but not least, we find that immigrant women are more prone to involuntary inactivity than their native-born peers. And immigrant women who do work, are often in low-skilled jobs. Immigrant women in the EU are ten times more likely to work in services and households than native-born women.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We very much hope that our work at the OECD supports and strengthens the adoption of the UN Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees. We also hope that it provides for a better understanding of both the successes that have already been achieved, and of the challenges that still need to be addressed – at national and international levels alike.

Looking ahead, we need to constantly engage in proactive discussions, ask ourselves if we pose the right questions and use international co-operation and evidence-based analysis to support our member and partner countries design better integration policies for better lives.

I look forward to continue this discussion with you.

Thank you.
