

## Integration of family migrants in France

### *Some results of the french longitudinal survey*

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A longitudinal statistical survey on the integration of newcomers (French acronym : Elipa) has been implemented in France among the beneficiaries of a first residence permit of at least one year who wish to settle in France in a long-lasting way [1]. The persons surveyed have obtained a residence permit at the end of 2009, aged of 18 years or more and born in third countries, *i.e.* outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. Temporary workers and students are not included in the sample.

This survey allows us to understand the path of the new immigrants in the early years of their arrival in France in four areas : administrative issues, integration into labour market, acquisition of French language and residential history. For this, new migrants have been interviewed three times : in spring 2010, a few months after obtaining their residence permit, then they have been interviewed again in spring 2011 and eventually in spring 2013.

#### WOMEN COME IN FRANCE FOR FAMILY REASONS

According to this survey, new migrants are allowed to stay in France mainly as family migrants (72 %) (Table 1). The two other main reasons are admission as a refugee (13 %) and labor migration (9 %). Men and women do not come for the same reasons in France [2]. Although the majority of men has migrated in the context of family migration, women are more widely admitted for the same reason. Thus women are less often admitted in France than men as labor migrants and, to a lesser extent, they are also a little less often refugees.

**Table 1 : Administrative admissions by gender ( 2010)**

	Men	Women	All
<b>Labor migration</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Family migration</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>72</b>
<i>Family reunification</i>	3	14	9
<i>Members of a family with a French people</i>	44	53	49
<i>Personal or family links</i>	15	14	14
<b>Refugees</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source : Elipa Survey, first wave (2010), DGEF-DSED*

All new migrants and family migrants have a very similar age structure (Table 2). These two populations are quite young : more than four out of ten people between 18 and 30 years old. Among family migrants, women are younger than men. Generally, women also arrived in France a little younger than the men.

Newcomers who have obtained a first residence permit in the same year, did not arrive in France at the same time due to administrative procedures. Family migrants are migrants for which the steps are the fastest : 60 % them are in France for less than two years against 48 %

for all new migrants. However, women coming for family migration are in France for less time than men admitted for the same reason.

Compared to all new migrants, family migrants come mostly from the Maghreb (especially men) and less often from sub-Saharan Africa and from Asia.

In the following, the study focuses on new migrants from family migration. It insists on gender issues, including the integration process of women.

**Table 2 : Socio-demographic characteristics in 2010 ;  
All new migrants and family migrants**

	ALL	Family migration		
		All	Men	Women
<b>Age (in 2010)</b>				
18 to 29 y.o.	44	46	36	54
30 to 39 y.o.	38	37	47	31
40 to 49 y.o.	13	12	14	11
50 y.o. and more	5	4	4	4
<b>Age at arrival in France</b>				
0 to 17 y.o.	9	6	8	5
18 to 29 y.o.	55	57	53	61
30 to 39 y.o.	26	27	32	24
40 to 49 y.o.	7	7	6	7
50 y.o. and more	3	2	2	3
<b>Duration of presence in France in 2010</b>				
Less than 2 years	48	60	50	67
From 2 to 4 years	16	12	11	12
From 5 to 9 years	25	22	29	17
More than 10 years	10	7	11	4
<b>Citizenship</b>				
Maghreb	36	46	51	42
Subsaharian Africa	25	21	21	21
Other Africa	8	6	7	6
Asia	20	16	13	18
Europe (and CIS)	6	5	3	7
America and Oceania	6	6	5	6

Source : Elipa Survey, first wave (2010), DGEF-DSED

#### MIGRATION AS A BREAK IN THE PATH OF ACTIVITY

Between the time of migration and 2010, the participation rate in labor market for men has increased significantly from 72 % to 90 % while the rate for women remained stable (about one in two women is active) (Table 3). But this stability actually conceals alternations between activity and inactivity due to migration. About two out of ten new migrant women become inactive (especially housewives) after migration. In contrast, the same proportion comes from idle status (mostly students, but also housewives) to activity status. Meanwhile, the employment rate of women collapsed, losing 20 points of percentage at 44 % and the unemployment rate increased significantly (from 10 % to 53%). Thus, migration appears as a break in the new migrant women path of activity.

Regarding men, the break in the path of activity is different. The participation rate increased sharply after the migration (from 72 % to 90%). These are mainly men who were still students before migration. The employment rate fell slightly and the unemployment rate rises sharply (6 % to 29%).

**Table 3 : Changes in the participation rate to labor market, the employment rate and the unemployment rate for family migrants by sex**

	Activity rate		Employment rate		Unemployment rate	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Before migration	72	49	68	44	6	10
2010	90	50	64	24	29	53
2011	92	50	73	32	21	36

Source : Elipa Survey, first wave (2010), DGEF-DSED

The first years of life in France are critical on the course of career of the new migrants. Whether for women or for men, the unemployment rate drops between 2010 and 2011 while the employment rate increases. In addition, women, after a few years away from working life, are beginning their return to the labor market. However, although these indicators point towards economic integration, new migrants do not reach the same level of employment rate as the French population. New migrant men participate as much or more than native men in the labor market, but their unemployment rate is much higher. According to others data sources [4], the participation rate of new migrant women in the labor market remains lower : employment rate is 79 % for native women. Nevertheless, they integrate over the years, slowly than men, activity and employment rates increasing since unemployment rate is decreasing.

#### A VOCATIONAL INTEGRATION RELATED TO THE DURATION OF PRESENCE IN FRANCE

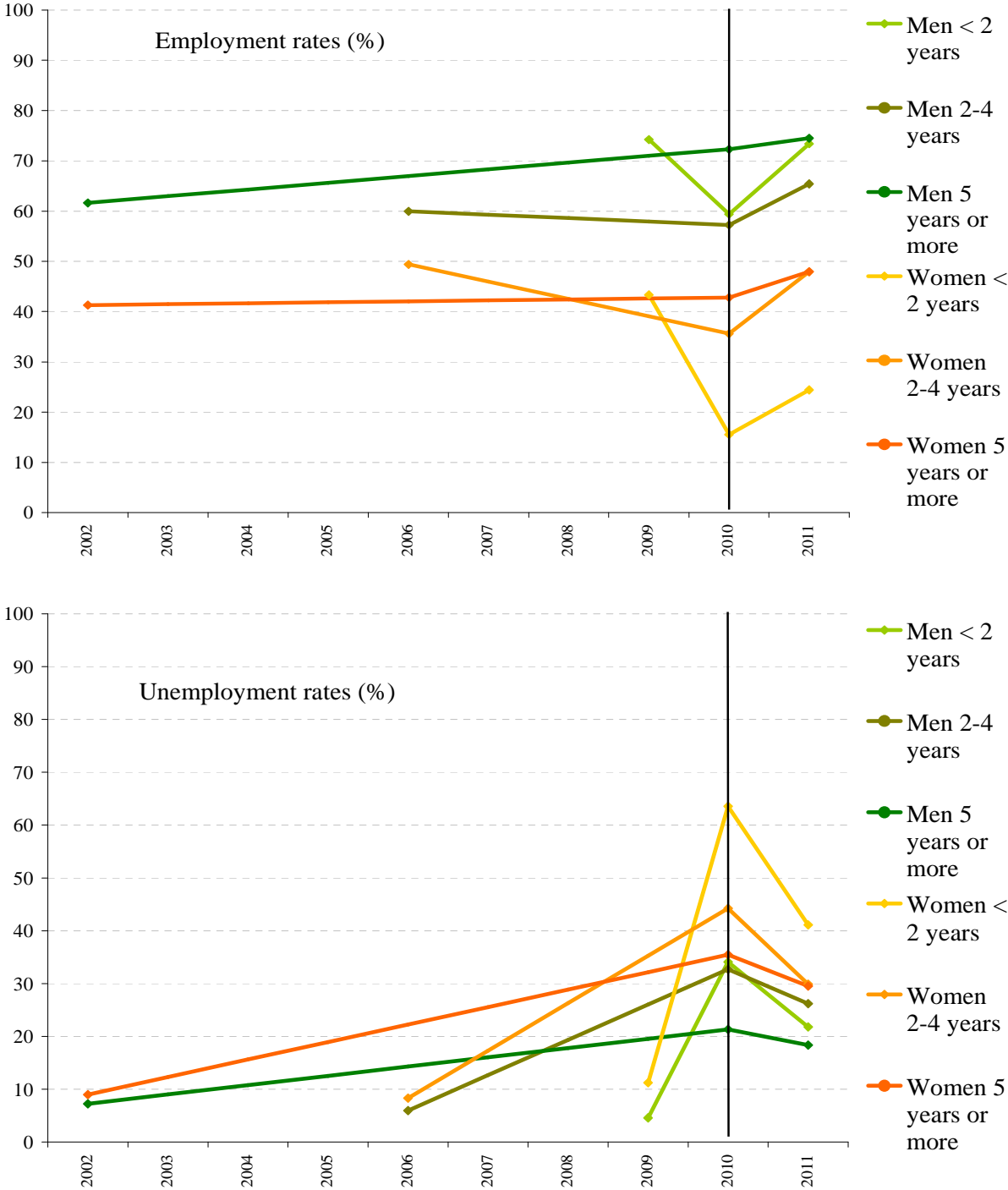
Even though they all got their first residence permit, new migrants studied by the survey are not all arrived the same year in France. However, the situation in relation to the activity strongly depends on the number of years spent in France [5].

The break in the labor market is more visible when the new family migrants interviewed in 2010 as part of Elipa survey are in France for less than two years (Figure 1). This break appears stronger for women than for men. Following migration, the employment rate for women in France for less than two years falls : it goes from 43 % in about a year. Almost one in four women (23 %) present in France for less than two years has gone from active status to inactive status. Which is more, unemployment is very high on arrival in France, both for women who were already active in their country of origin or for those who were inactive.

The situation is changing very quickly for women recently arrived in France. In only one year (2010-2011), their employment rate jumped from 16 % to 24 %. During the first years of life in France, the situation in the labor market is changing very fast. The employment rate increases sharply while the unemployment rate decreases. Compared to women who arrived in France for longer, the unemployment rate for recently arrived women remains high. These women are probably more affected than others by unemployment because of their low experience. It is therefore likely that the unemployment rate will continue to decline in the coming years.

In addition, if this trend is more visible to the women present in France for less than two years, it is observed for all times and present for both genders : unemployment rate decreases with duration of presence and the employment rate increases.

**Figure 1 - Evolution of the employment rate and the unemployment rate for family migrants by sex and duration of presence in France in 2010**

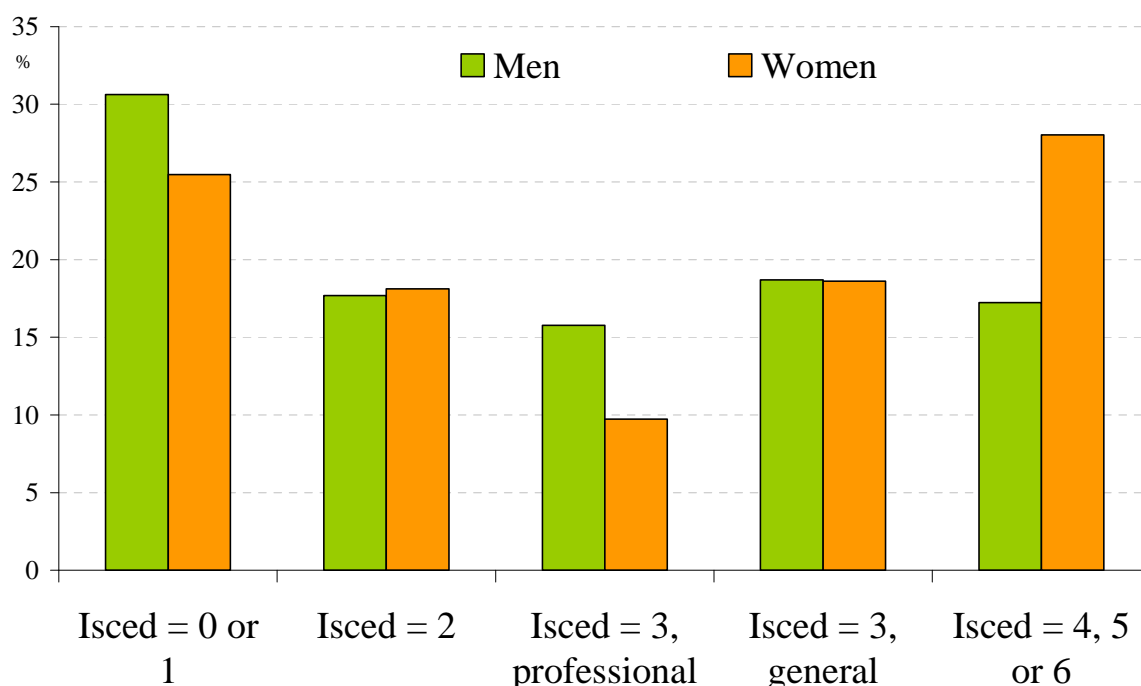


Source : Elipa Survey, two waves (2010-2011), DGEF-DSED

### WOMEN ARE MORE OFTEN GRADUATES

New migrants from family migration are rather poorly educated. More than three out of ten have no diploma. Conversely, more than two out of ten are graduates. Indeed, the scope of Elipa survey excludes immigrants with student residence permit and therefore underestimates artificially highly qualified people. Origins, as educative systems widely differs around the world, have an impact on educational attainment [6]. But, as a matter of fact, distribution of achieved levels are also quite differing by gender (Figure 2). Women from family migration are more educated than men and they have also often a higher level degree.

**Figure 2 - Highest degree obtained, family migrants by sex**



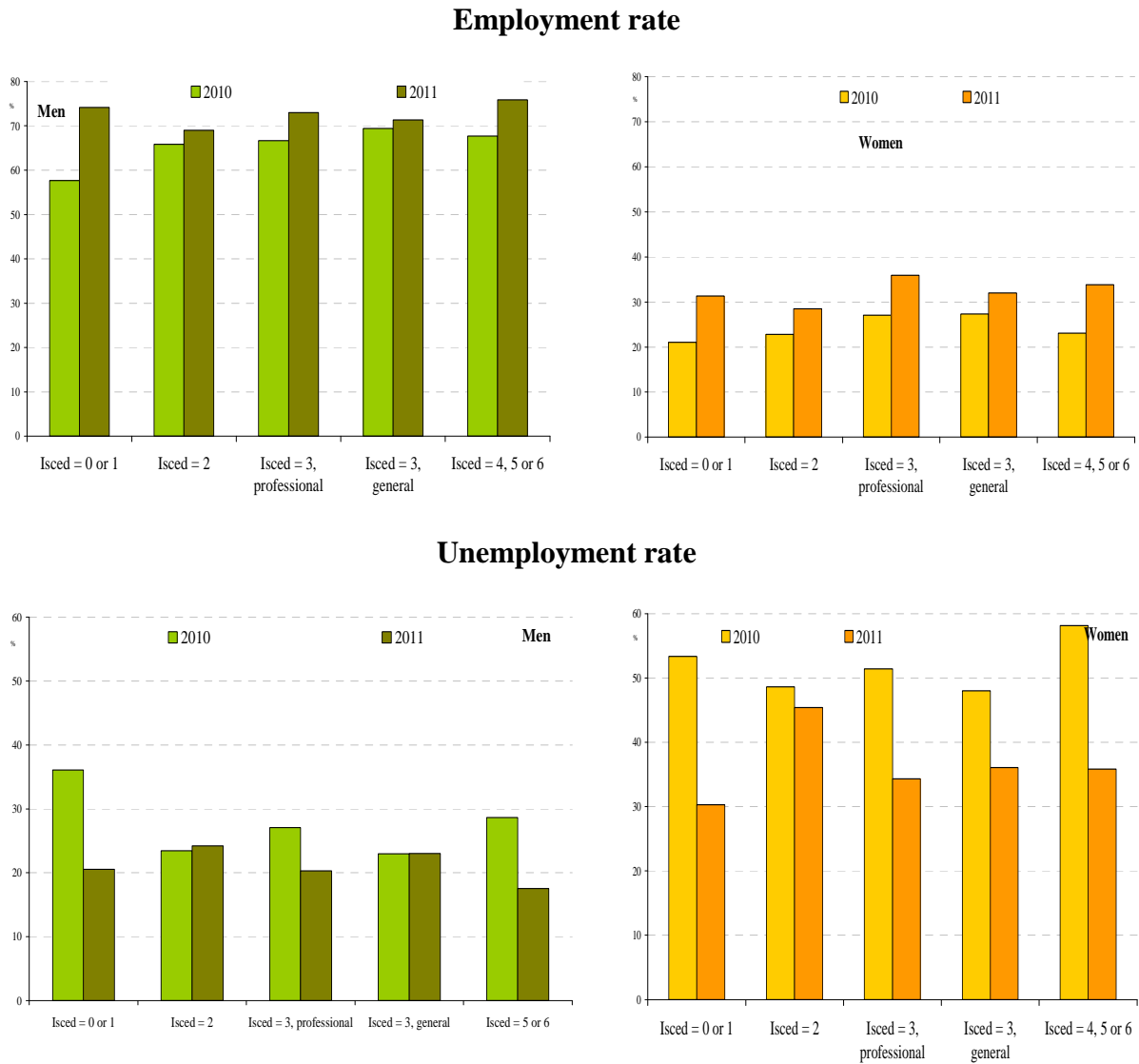
Source : Elipa Survey, first wave (2010), DGEF-DSED

Note : the classification used is ISCED -97. In France the level 4 is almost non existent.

Nevertheless, these benefits in terms of education are not reflected by a better integration of women into the labor market. At the same degree, they are systematically less well integrated into the labor market. Their employment rate is still lower than men and the unemployment rate is higher (Figure 3). Actually, unemployed women are both women with no qualifications and women with higher education. In contrast, those with an intermediate degree appear better integrated in the labor market.

The duration of presence in France also plays a major role. For a given degree, the trend observed between 2010 and 2011 is a decrease in unemployment and an increase in the employment rate. Such trend is observed both for women and men. Yet it does not allow women to catch up with the levels observed for men, even with the same degree.

**Figure 3 : Evolution of the employment rate and the unemployment rate for family migrants by educational level**



Source : Elipa Survey, two waves (2010-2011), DGEF-DSED

**FLUENCY IN FRENCH LOWER FOR WOMEN**

Knowledge of the French language is essential for the integration of new migrants in France. Within the population of all new migrants, the practice of the French language improved significantly during the first year [7a, 7b] Women have a lower level than men, but their level is improving. Facilitating learnship of French language is an important part of the french reception policy. About 20 % of CAI's signators had french lessons free of charge (200-400 hours according to initial level) between 2009 and 2011. Assessing that policy is one important aim of ELIPA and is in progress [7c].

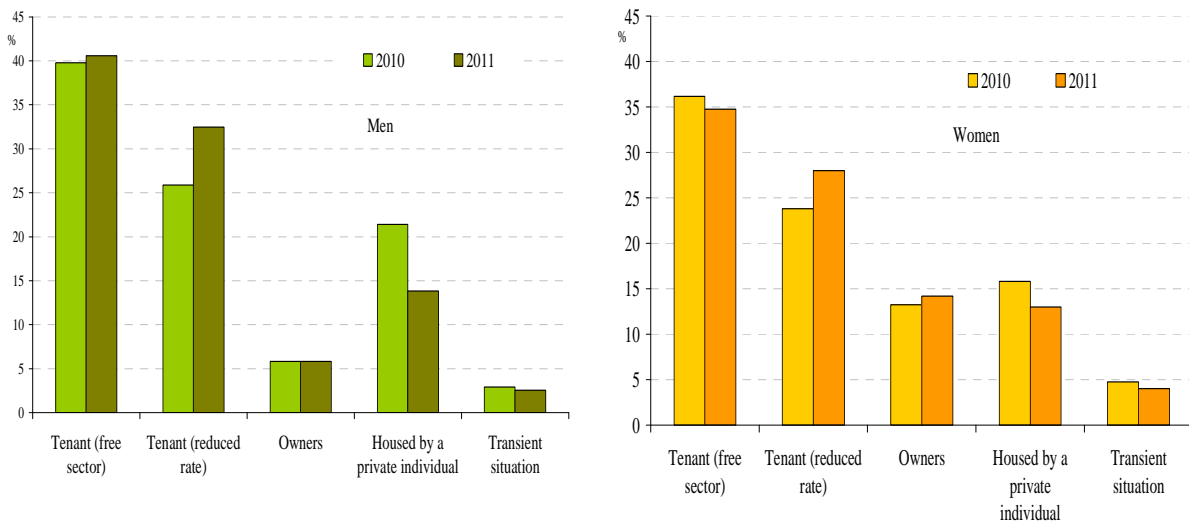
## TOWARDS RESIDENTIAL INTEGRATION

The type of housing for new migrants strongly depends on the reason for admission to stay. Compared to new migrants who came for professional reasons and refugees, family migrants are better housed [8]. More than three out of four family migrants live in separate housing, that is to say a rented or purchased housing. In France, people coming through family reunification have in particular the obligation to have a housing that meets criteria of safety and comfort and comparable to a dwelling for a family living in the same geographical region. The share of persons accommodated by another person or living in a passing accommodation (social residence, hotel, housing association or a dependent of a shelter) is lower for family migrants than for refugees and professional migrants. For a given motive, the housing conditions are better for women [9]. Even if we consider a given family structure, women are still better housed than men.

Regarding the new migrants, ownership or social housing are a sign of residential integration. Both types of housing to meet two essential criteria : residential autonomy and access to comfortable accommodation. The private sector tenants, have not generally access to comfortable accommodation [10].

In the space of three years (2010-2011), types of housing evolve rather quickly to residential integration, especially for women (Figure 4).

**Figure 4 : type of accommodation of family migrants : change between 2010 and 2011 by sex**



Source : Elipa Survey, two waves (2010-2011), DGEF-DSED

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