Settling in: OECD Indicators of Immigrant Integration

3 December 2012, Paris

Cécile Thoreau & Thomas Liebig

International Migration Division
Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs
OECD
Introduction – the OECD Integration Indicators

- First comprehensive presentation of the integration of immigrants and their children in the OECD
- 21 indicators in seven central integration areas
- Rich context information on the characteristics of the immigrant population for all 34 OECD countries, to account for the different composition of immigrant populations
- Comprehensive documentation and analysis on the basis of prior OECD work on integration
- Country notes and an interactive tool online to compare countries: www.oecd.org/migration/integrationindicators.htm
Comparing the foreign-born... with whom?

- With other migrants
  - other groups of migrants within a country
  - migrants in other countries

- Comparison over time

- With the native-born
  - overall
  - native-born with similar characteristics

➢ Outcomes of native-born offspring of immigrants as a benchmark for integration
All countries have their strengths and weaknesses.

Employment rate of the foreign-born, 2009-10

Immigrant household median income relative to the native-born

Note: Refer to the annual equivalised household median income.
Some progress on the employment front… but not everywhere

Change in the employment rate of the foreign-born population, 2009-10 compared with 2000-01

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia, Canada, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OECD
Lower educational attainment explains part of the disadvantage of the offspring of immigrants in the labour market.

Difference in employment rates of native-born offspring of immigrants and offspring of native-born parents, persons aged 15 to 34 not in education, 2008.

Unadjusted vs. Adjusted for education.
In every country without exception, the employment of highly educated immigrants is less than that of highly educated native-born.

Difference in employment rate of highly educated foreign- and native-born persons 15 to 64, 2009-10

Excluding persons in school.
Poverty rates are higher among immigrant households.

Ratio of immigrant to non-immigrant poverty rates.
Low-educated immigrant offspring are more often on the margin of the labour force.

NEET rates among the low-educated aged 15 to 34 by parents’ place of birth, 2008
Further key findings

• There is more concentration of immigrants in large cities in the OECD settlement countries than in OECD-Europe.

• There has been an increase in the educational attainment of new immigrant arrivals in many OECD countries...
  But these increases have not yet had a large impact on the composition of the immigrant population in many « old » European immigration countries.

• The bulk of the lower employment rates of immigrant offspring tends to be associated with their underrepresentation in the public sector

• Immigrants are more likely to report unmet medical needs.

• Immigrants who have obtained host-country citizenship are less likely to vote than the native-born in all countries but …. more difficult access to citizenship does not mean that those who receive it are more likely to vote.
Conclusions

- For most indicators, immigrant-native differences in any given country are much smaller than differences between the native-born in the top and worst performing countries.

- Characteristics of the immigrant population explain part of the differences
  - *Between immigrants and the native-born*
  - *In immigrant performance across countries.*

- Although no country is among the best on all indicators, immigrants in European OECD countries tend to fare less well than immigrants in the OECD settlement countries (Australia, Canada and New Zealand).

- The high proportion of (highly-educated) labour migrants is one reason why the OECD countries that have been settled by migration fare relatively well on most indicators.

- Indeed, the composition of past migration in terms of category (labour, family, humanitarian) seems to be responsible for a lot of the differences in performance across countries.
Having a high educational attainment is, by itself, no guarantee for good integration outcomes for immigrants themselves, but it is strongly associated with good outcomes for their children.

The unfavourable outcomes of the native-born offspring of immigrants in most European OECD countries are associated with the low educational attainment of many immigrants in the generation of their parents.

Achieving good outcomes for the offspring of low-educated immigrants represents the single most important integration challenge facing OECD-countries.
Thank you for your attention!

For further information:

www.oecd.org/migration/integrationindicators.htm