



CEB – OECD High-Level Seminar
The Refugee Crisis: Challenges and
Responses for Social Investment
Paris, 17 May 2016

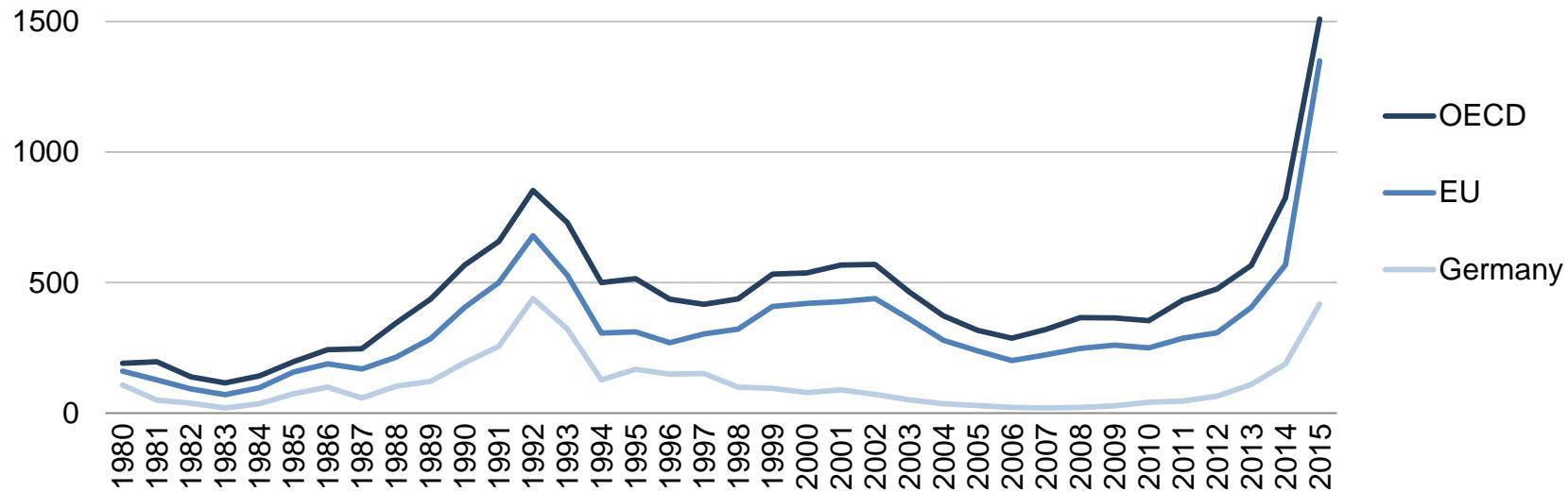
INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE: *SETTING THE SCENE*

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2015 : a record year for asylum

Evolution of number of new asylum seekers, 1980-2015



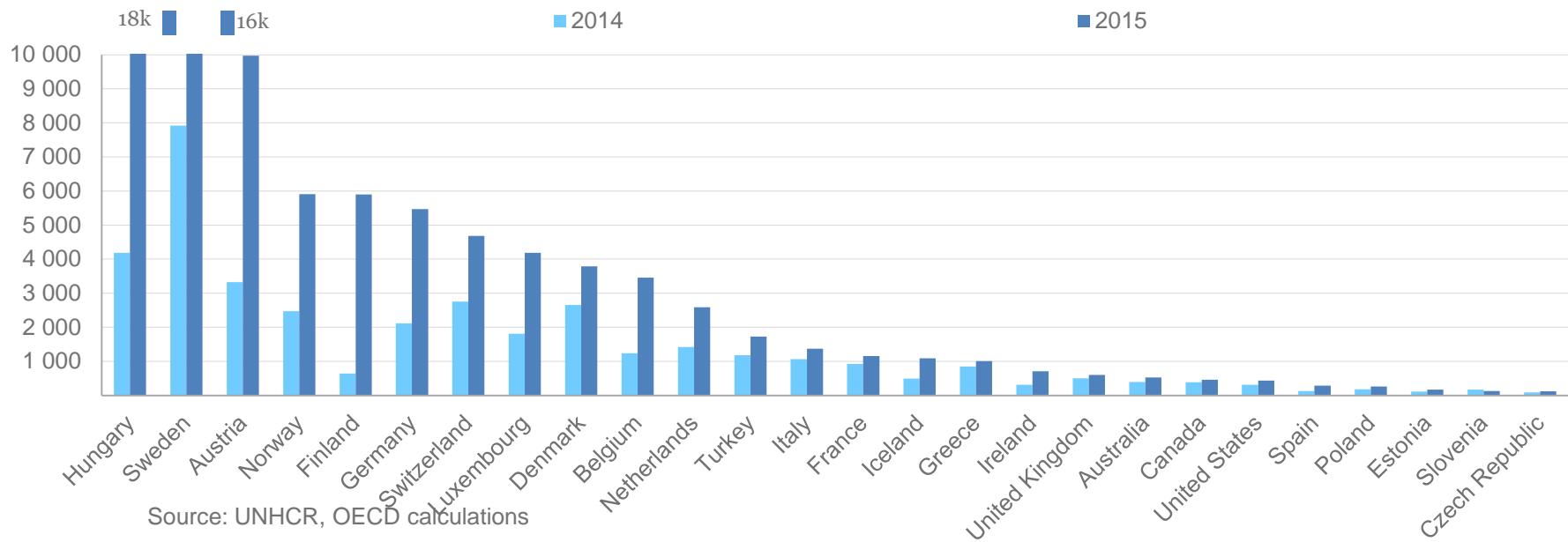
Source: UNHCR, Eurostat, OECD calculations

- In 2015, 1.5 million asylum requests in OECD, 1.3 m in Europe
- 4.8 million refugees are in the neighbouring countries of Syria including 2.75 m in Turkey, 1.1 m in Lebanon and 640k in Jordan.
- In the first 4 months of 2016, inflows are higher than those for the same period of 2015, but the numbers have been declining rapidly since March. Syria is by far the most important origin country, followed by Afghanistan and Iraq.



In per-capita terms, Sweden, Austria and Germany have received the highest number of asylum seekers in 2015

New asylum seekers per million population in selected OECD countries

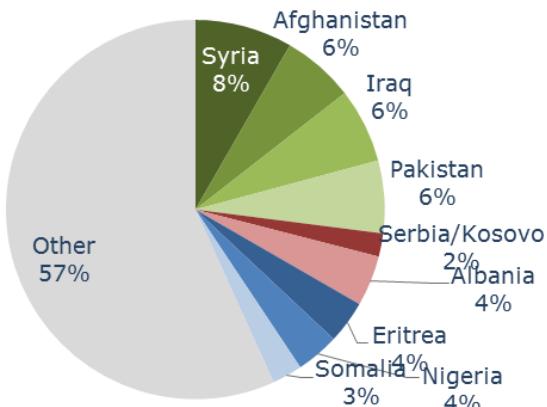


- Australia, Canada and the United States have also sizeable resettlement programmes and have increased their resettlement places for Syrians in 2015.
- Canada alone received more than 25 thousand Syrians in just four months between end of 2015 and April 2016.

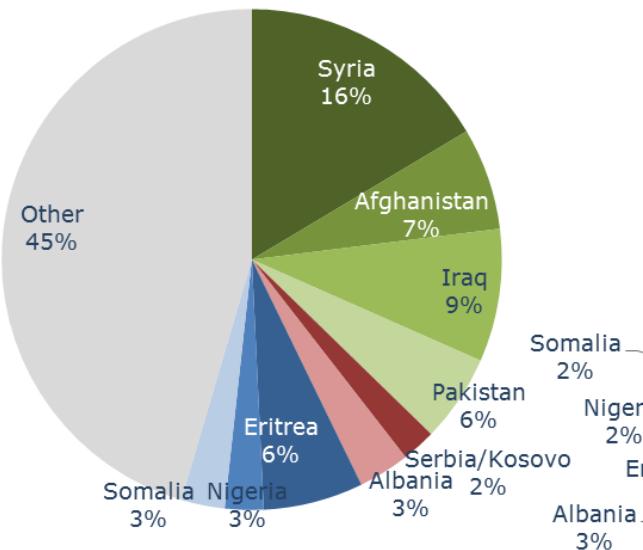


Diversity of origin countries

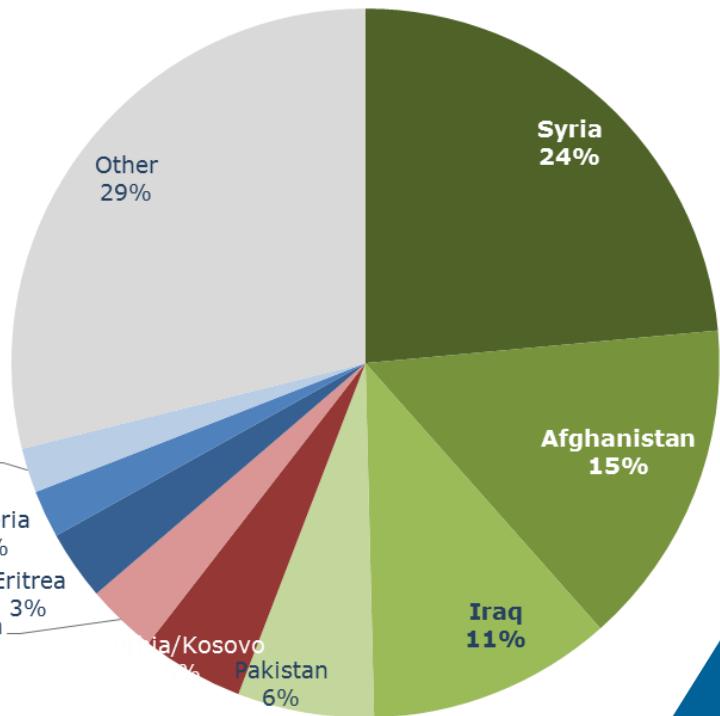
2013
OECD Total = 570 000



2014
OECD Total = 800 000



2015
OECD Total = 1 500 000

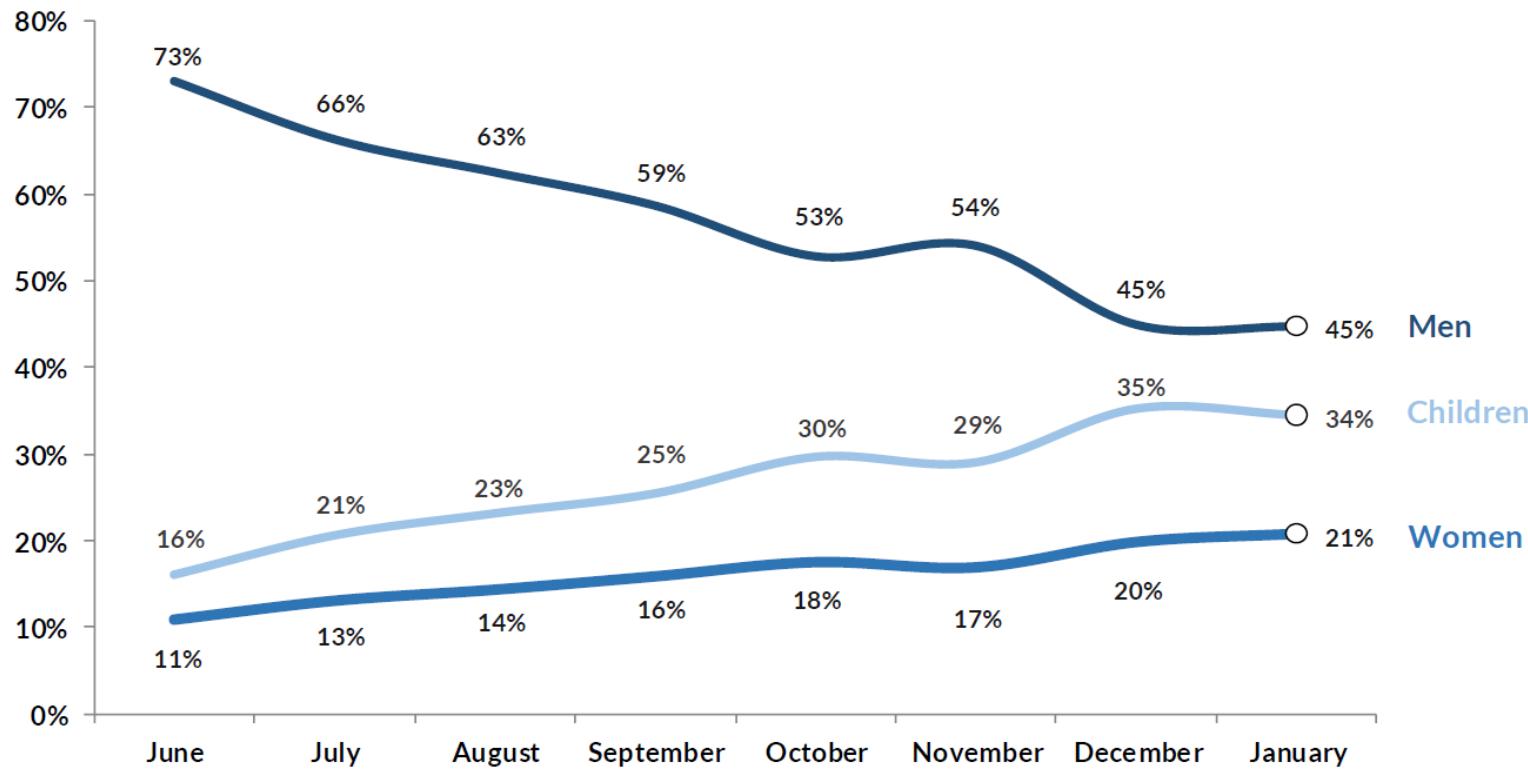


Source: UNHCR, OECD calculations, based on partial data for 2015



More men but increasing women and children

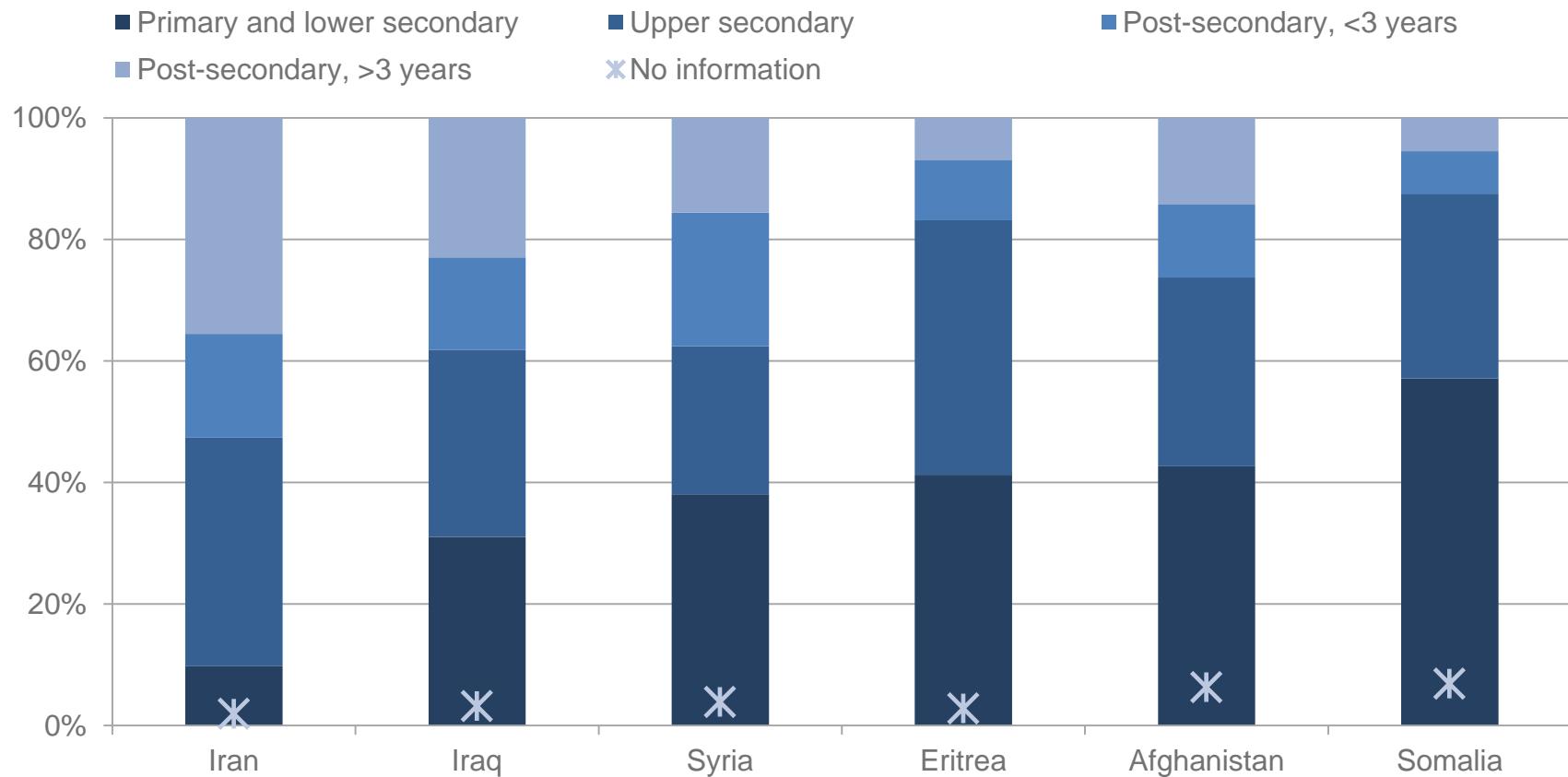
Breakdown of Men - Women – Children among sea arrivals in Greece for the period June 2015 – 16th January 2016, based on partial data as communicated by authorities.





Strong diversity of qualification levels within and between refugees groups

Education level of immigrants aged 25-64 in Sweden by latest country of residence, 2015

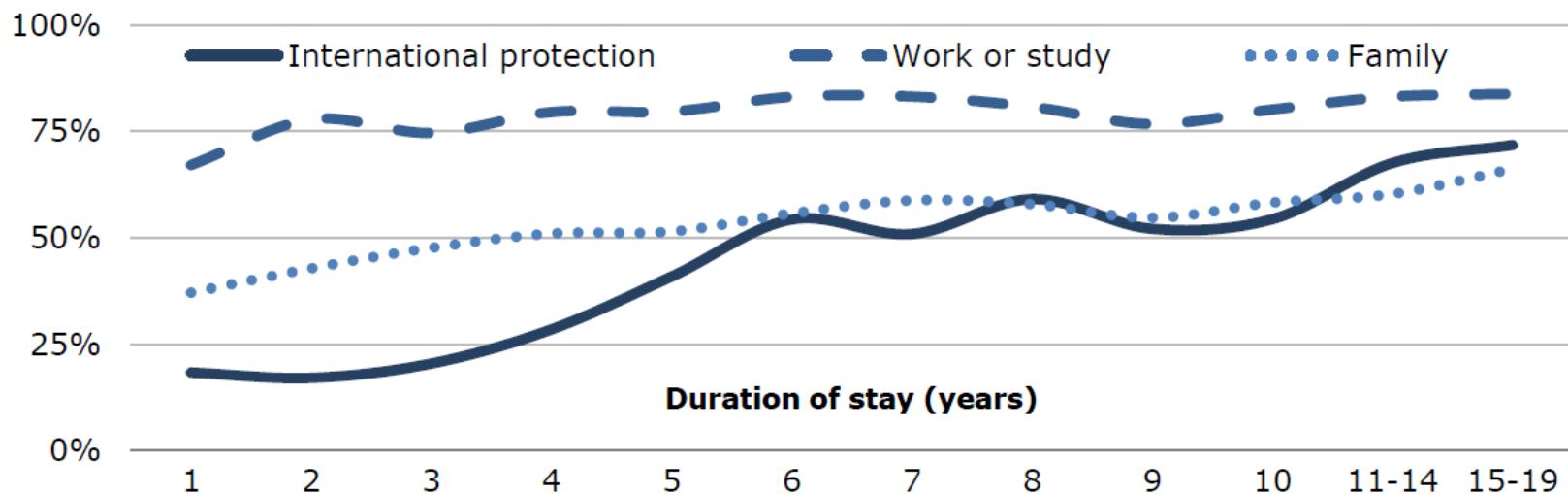


Source: Statistics Sweden, 2016



Labour market integration of refugees takes time and requires active support

Employment rate by immigrant categories and duration of stay in European OECD countries, 2008



Source: Eurostat Labour force survey (2008) ad-hoc module on the labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants.



Specific challenges for social infrastructure

- I. Strong concentration in certain communities
- II. Strong variation in the capacity of local reception and integration infrastructure
- III. Increased pressure on local (social) housing market and education system
- IV. Financing systems do not always ensure that the cost is fully reimbursed
- V. Co-ordination, both within and across levels of government



10 lessons on integration from OECD work

Provide activation and integration services as soon as possible for humanitarian migrants and asylum seekers with high prospects of being allowed to stay



Identify mental and physical health issues early and provide adequate support

Facilitate labour market access for asylum seekers with high prospects of being allowed to stay



Develop support programmes specific to unaccompanied minors who arrive past the age of compulsory schooling

Factor employment prospects into dispersal policies



Build on civil society to integrate humanitarian migrants

Record and assess humanitarian migrants' foreign qualifications, work experience and skills



Promote equal access to integration services to humanitarian migrants across the country

Take into account the growing diversity of humanitarian migrants and develop tailor-made approaches



Acknowledge that the integration of very poorly educated humanitarian migrants requires long-term training and support



For further information on the OECD's work on migration and integration:

Migration Policy Debates
www.oecd.org/migration
May 2014

The economic impact of migration has been intensely studied but is still often driven by ill-informed perceptions, which, in turn, can lead to public antagonism towards migration. These negative views risk jeopardising efforts to adopt migration policies that are in the best interests of all. This edition of Migration Policy Debates looks at the evidence for how immigrants affect the economy in three main areas: The labour market, the public purse and economic growth.

Is migration good for the economy?

Migration is a factor of cost and economic life across many countries, but the nature of migration patterns varies considerably. Part this is because of the variety of sources of migration. In much of Europe, for example, citizens enjoy extensive rights to free movement. In Australia, Canada and New Zealand, managed labour migration plays an important role. Other sources include family and household migration, and migration for study or retirement. The social impacts on our societies, and these can be controversial. The economic impact of migration is no exception.

Benefit or burden – what's the reality? To answer this question, it can be helpful to look at migration's impact in three areas – the labour market, the public purse and economic growth.

Labour market

- > Migrants accounted for 47% of the increase in the workforce in the United States and 10% in Europe over the past ten years.
- > Migrants are an important factor both in the growing and declining sectors of the economy.
- > Like the native-born, young migrants are better educated than those nearing retirement.
- > Migrants contribute significantly to labour-market flexibility, notably in Europe.

The public purse

- > Migrants contribute more in taxes and social contributions than they receive in benefits.
- > Older migrants have the most positive impact on the public purse.
- > Employment is the single biggest determinant of migrants' net fiscal contribution.

Economic growth

- > Migration boosts the working age population.
- > Migrants contribute significantly to human capital development of receiving countries.
- > Migrants also contribute to technological progress.

Understanding these impacts is important if our societies are to usefully debate the role of migration. Such discussions should be informed by the best available evidence and by policies that maximise the benefits of migration, especially by improving migrants' employment situation.

This policy note will, of course, vary from country to country. But the fundamental question of how to maximise the benefits of migration, both for host countries and the migrants themselves, needs to be addressed more. (OECD, 2014). This is particularly as rapid population ageing increases demand for migrants to make up shortfalls in the workforce.

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www.oecd.org/migration

Recruiting Immigrant Workers
GERMANY

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Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015
SETTLING IN

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REFUGEES AND OTHERS IN NEED OF PROTECTION

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Matching Economic Migration with Labour Market Needs

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