



# Migration

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What is the first thing you think about when you hear the word “migration”?



# What is migration?

When people move from one country to another.

People move because of:

- ▶ War
- ▶ Natural disaster
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Work
- ▶ Love
- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Political reasons
- ▶ It is quite common in Iceland to move because of education
- ▶ Migration has its pros and cons for the individuals and the countries' community

# The difference between “to immigrate” and “to emigrate”

- ▶ These two concepts are very similar but yet different
- ▶ “To emigrate” is when you are moving out of your home country
- ▶ “To immigrate” is when you are moving into a new country

# Role of immigrants

What do immigrants bring to the new country?

- ▶ They play an important role in protecting the economic growth in every country
- ▶ They increase ethnical and racial diversity
- ▶ They bring new life and new perspectives into the community



# Migration in Iceland

- ▶ The number of immigrants in Iceland is increasing
- ▶ In 2016, 703 people with foreign background got Icelandic citizenship
- ▶ Most of these people come from Poland and the Philippines
- ▶ 60% of the immigrants in 2016 were women
- ▶ On January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, 35.997 immigrants lived in Iceland
- ▶ Today around 10,6% of the Icelandic population are immigrants



# Migration in Iceland - Pros and Cons

Difficulties can arise in migration, both for the immigrants and also the society

- ▶ It is expensive to bring immigrants/refugees into the society, find a place for them to live and make it possible for them to learn the language because they come into the country with nothing, especially the refugees
- ▶ It is hard for most people to learn Icelandic
- ▶ It's often hard for families to move to another country where they don't know anyone or anything about the society and they are at risk of becoming isolated from the society

# Migration in Iceland - Pros and cons

- ▶ It's often hard for immigrants to find good jobs in Iceland but there are plenty of low paid jobs for unskilled people
- ▶ There is a big housing crisis in Iceland right now and difficult for both Icelanders and immigrants to find a place to live, probably even much harder for immigrants.
- ▶ It is very common that many immigrants live together in industrial buildings in poor conditions

# Migration in Iceland - Pros and cons

- ▶ There are a lot of pros for the society when people with foreign backgrounds move to the country
- ▶ We get hardworking people in jobs which are not very popular, like cleaning, service jobs and construction for example
- ▶ We get to know many new cultures and get a new perspective on many things
- ▶ Entrepreneurs that move to the country and have positive effect on the society, they can for example create new jobs and reduce unemployment in the country.

# Prejudice against immigrants



Prejudice are most often based on ignorance

- ▶ In Iceland, one of the highest prejudice are against people of foreign origin.
- ▶ The reasons can be:
  - ▶ Ethnicity
  - ▶ Traditions
  - ▶ Religion
  - ▶ Culture etc.

How can we fight prejudice and discrimination?

- ▶ We can try to understand how the immigrants feel and try to help them to adjust to the new country and understand that they are not worse than us
- ▶ Lets brace diversity



# Children who immigrate to Iceland

We went to a middle primary school in Reykjavik and talked to a few kids in 8-10th grade who had immigrated to Iceland. We asked them a few questions and these are some of their answers:

- ▶ Some of them feel prejudiced against while others said that there was less prejudice here than where they came from and more freedom
- ▶ Moving to a new country can be a big challenge for many kids
- ▶ Difficult to learn a new language
- ▶ Hard to start in a new school
- ▶ Very important to get private tutoring
- ▶ One of them who came from Russia said that there is more freedom in his new school here



# Oksana's Story



# Examples of what immigrants bring to our culture



# Conclusion and Recommendations

## Social inclusion

- ▶ Integration must be effective - it is for the benefit of both the newcomers and the locals
- ▶ It is our conclusion that the people in the community need to take an active part in welcoming newcomers
- ▶ Lack of communication causes isolation, therefore it is very important to learn the national language
- ▶ Don't think 'us' and 'them,' immigrants need to feel that they belong
- ▶ Talk to our immigrant neighbors - use simple words or even sign language
- ▶ Smile and say 'hello' and introduce yourself
- ▶ Involve the newcomers in events that have to do with food and culture
- ▶ Help them to get in contact with institutions, services, banks, sport activities etc.