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## **Integrating Immigrants in Europe. Research-Policy dialogues**

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## Reviews (II)

Scholten, P., Entzinger, H., Penninx R. & Verbeek, S. (2015). *Integrating Immigrants in Europe*. Research-Policy dialogues. Springer Open

**I**n 2008, the “Research-Policy Dialogues on Immigration and Integration in Europe” conference highlighted the differences regarding communication between policymakers and researchers. As mentioned in the book, Europe is “a continent of immigration”, and analysing how policymakers and researchers manage the impact of immigration and migrant integration, must be an item to develop. The conference resulted in the DIAMINT project (2011-2013), which aimed at collecting empirical data regarding immigrant’s integration in the EU. Thus, this book is a compilation of contributions presented in the 2008 conference and describes 1) the research-policy dialogues on migrant integration in Europe, and 2) how they have been developed over time and which were their consequences. The book is divided in three parts: first, it presents seven interventions on forms and functions of research-policy dialogues; second, it exposes eight interventions explaining Research Policy dialogues in Europe; third, it provides the main conclusions of the analysis.

Part I stresses the existent framework and the most relevant questions regarding the research-policy dialogues on migrant integration in order to describe the situation at local, national and European level as for instance, how dialogues are affected by the relationship between research and policy or media interventions. As a result of the different dialogues, member states adopted Regulation 862/2007, and later, Regulation (EC) No 763/2008, which developed a series of indicators - migrants country of birth, country of

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citizenship among others- in order to obtain a more thorough overview of the situation of immigration in the different national contexts that allow developing better integration policies. However, authors suggest the need to incorporate other type of indicators that provide more complex visions as, for instance indicators based on demographic, sociological or ethnic criteria.

Furthermore, authors highlight that, after the analysis, they could observe that there is a whole evolution on the data collection system, so the international migration statistics need to be harmonised in order to give an adapted answer to the needs of the European society. In order to arrive to this consistency of the statistics system, the authors explain the background of the participant countries, to get familiarised with their national migration history: for example, from 2000 to 2014 Germany and UK were giving a more liberal orientation to the immigration policies; Netherlands was considered one of the strongest multicultural models in migrant integration and France had to realise that immigrants were part of their society.

Part II analyses how the research-policy dialogues are developed in seven national cases. Despite having a long history with migrants, some are still working on creating integration policies, while others are relatively new in working with this issue. During the reading, we can see the difference among all seven countries in terms of which immigrants they receive, when these migratory process started, the causes that provoked it and the measures took by the European Countries and what is more relevant, how the integration policies have been modified until recent years.

Part III summarises the findings of the analysis. The authors observe that the analysis considers three main aspects: the naturalisation, religion and education. Firstly, all national policies generated different tendencies regarding the naturalisation of the migrant integration. Regarding religion, authors cannot establish a general path of dialogues, since all countries have different manners to tackle this item. There is an interesting debate in all the study cases regarding the Islam and the policies regarding migrant integration developed by the seven countries. Lastly, these European

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countries share the same concern regarding migrant youth and the necessity to improve their educational achievement.

To conclude, authors explain the existence of an evolution from a ‘research-policy dialogues’ to broader ‘science-society dialogues’ meaning that the dialogs regarding integration policies started being tackled only by a few, to be part of the nowadays society and all its agents. In the majority of cases, media has had a great impact in favouring policies, for example, while in some countries, an open debate was generated, in other countries, media favoured strict policies. In spite of the differences, DIAMINT project encloses how interactions between knowledge producers, political context and media have gradually changed during decades until emerging in today’s integration policies.

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