

INTERACT
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KEY FINDINGS

Corridor report on the Netherlands: the case of Turkish and Chinese immigrants

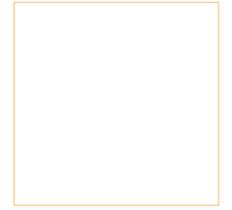
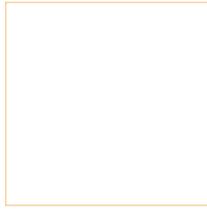
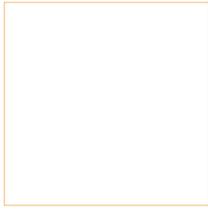
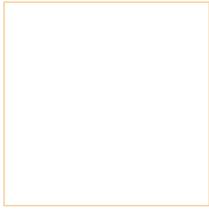
Authors: Jérémy Mandin and Sonia Gsir | Centre d'études de l'ethnicité et des migrations, Institut des Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Université de Liège

Editor: Cameron Thibos | Lecturer, Council On International Educational Exchange

The Netherlands has been a country of immigration since 1945, when incoming migration first became more important than outward emigration (Vink 2007). Many Dutch citizens returned to the Netherlands over the course of the 1940s and 1950s as colonies, such as the former Dutch East Indies, became independent (Vink 2007). Furthermore, the Netherlands began to import foreign nationals in the 1960s as 'guest workers' (gastarbeiders) through bilateral agreements. Workers from Italy, Spain, and later from Turkey and Morocco, arrived in the country. Official recruitment of foreign workers ended in 1973, however immigration continued mainly through family migration or asylum seeking but also labour migration. In 2013, the Netherlands had a population of 16,778,025, around 4.7% of whom (796,235) were foreigners. Slightly less than half of this foreign-born population (47.8%) comes from other EU countries.¹ However the criterion of nationality gives, at best,

1. Source: CBS Statline: <http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/?LA=en>





an incomplete view of the demographic contribution of immigration to Dutch society. It is estimated that 21.1% of the population of the Netherlands has a foreign background (that is to say, at least one parent born outside the Netherlands).² The two biggest groups with a foreign origin are people of Turkish origin (395,302 persons in 2013) and people of Moroccan origin (368,838 persons in 2013).³ The population with Chinese origin is 80,082, a much smaller group. The two migrant populations studied in this report have evolved with different dynamics, resulting in different characteristics and patterns of integration.

Facing immigrant durable settlement, the Netherlands started to implement an explicit integration policy in the 1980s. This innovative policy, called the “ethnic minorities policy,” recognised the ability of ethnic minorities to develop their own institutions in domains like culture, religion and language. However, during the 1990s and the 2000s, this ‘multicultural’ approach evolved into a more assimilationist perspective.

Both Chinese and Turkish governments have been inclined to protect their economic and political interests through growing engagement with Chinese and Turkish migrants in the Netherlands. With more than 50 million Chinese people living abroad across 100 countries (Liu and Du 2013), China’s authorities have attached great importance to the so-called overseas Chinese. In order to strengthen the social and economic links with Chinese people abroad, for example, Chinese authorities stated that diaspora Chinese can participate in social insurance. Since 2004, China has also started to establish Confucius Institutes in other countries, including the Netherlands, in order to promote Chinese language and culture abroad. For its part, Turkish diaspora policy has been strongly oriented toward the twin objec-

tives of improving the situation of migrants abroad, and maintaining cultural, religious and linguistic links with Turkish migrants.

This summary document details the INTERACT findings regarding the impact of China’s and Turkey’s emigration and diaspora policies on the integration of Chinese and Turkish migrants in the Netherlands.

1. The countries of origin (China and Turkey) are concerned about their migrants abroad

One outcome related to diaspora policies of China and Turkey is that these countries of origin are attentive about their population abroad. Both promote harmonious integration in the Netherlands (the country of destination) and simultaneously encourage the conservation of links (cultural, economic, politic, etc.) with the country of origin. Additionally, they implement special programmes to strengthen ties with those migrants considered particularly valuable for national development: for example, entrepreneurs and international students.

2. Turkish and Chinese migrants have integrated differently in the Netherlands⁴

Statistics regarding Chinese and Turkish migrant integration in the Netherlands show important differences. In terms of labour market integration and education, Turkish migrants are the most disadvantaged. They display a high rate of unemployment, an over-representation in lower segments of the labour market, and a lower level of education. Chinese migrants are characterised by a different

4. Please refer to the full report for precise statistics on the integration of these groups into Dutch society. Dutch statistics on integration often target populations with a migrant origin, which means they include people who have not migrated themselves (i.e. the children of migrants).

2. Source: CBS Statline: <http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/?LA=en>

3. Source: CBS Statline: <http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/LA=en>



position. Still disadvantaged on the labour market in comparison to Dutch natives, Chinese migrants have a lower unemployment rate than the Turkish migrants, stronger representation in highly skilled segments of the labour market, and a better education level (even higher than Dutch natives regarding university education) In terms of citizenship, Turkish migrants in the Netherlands often hold dual citizenship while Chinese migrants do not (less than 10%). That said, the proportion of migrants from China holding only the Dutch citizenship is greater than that of Turkish migrants.

3. *The interaction between integration policy in the Netherlands and diaspora policies in Turkey and China is complex*

The case of access to citizenship shows how policies (and their evolution) interact in both the country of origin and in the country of destination to create different possibilities for migrants (access to dual citizenship, possibility to keep rights in the country of origin in case of naturalisation, etc.). For example, Dutch naturalisation (which requires migrants, in principle, to renounce their citizenship in the country origin) has not had quite the same effect on Chinese and Turkish migrants. This is because Turkish authorities provide a mechanism (the blue card), which secures some rights in Turkey for Turkish migrants who abandon Turkish citizenship in order to naturalise abroad.

The following table shows the legal and political systems that frame Turkish and Chinese diasporas abroad.

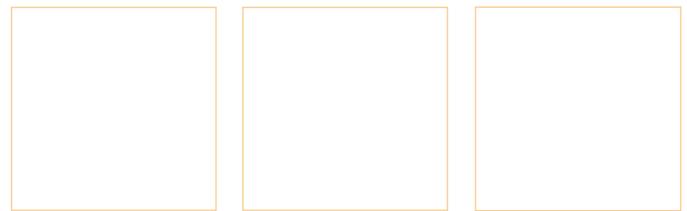


Table 1. State-level framework of emigration/diaspora policies: Turkey vs. China

	Turkey	China
Legal framework for emigrants/diaspora	Formal and organized structure	Formal and organized structure
Approach towards emigrants	Controlling, protecting and engaging diaspora	Controlling, protecting and engaging diaspora
Main state-actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Ministry • Presidency for Turks Abroad and Relative Communities • Advisory Committee for Turkish Citizens Living Abroad • High Committee for Turkish Citizens Living Abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office • Ministry of Public Security • Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security • Chinese Ministry of Education
Socio-economic rights	Blue Card 1964 bilateral agreement in force with the Netherlands	
Political rights	Right to vote in presidential elections, general elections and referendums	Right to vote and stand in elections. For Chinese migrants settled abroad, this participation cannot go beyond county level of the people's congress
Language and cultural and religious rights	Turkish-Islamic Union of Religious Affairs, Belçika Türk İslam Diyanet Vakfı, Cultural programmes and language courses. Turkish teachers and imams sent abroad	Confucius Institutes promote Chinese language and culture abroad
Dual citizenship	Actively supported as a tool for integration abroad	Formally forbidden

4. *The impact of country of origin differs depending on the dimension of integration*

Survey respondents from organisations dealing with Chinese and Turkish migrants seem to believe that the country of origin impacts migrant integration in the Netherlands. However, data show that the extent of this impact depends on the dimension of integration. For example, the impact of country of origin is considered important in labour market integration but less so in migrant social interactions in the Netherlands.

5. *Non-state actors based in the country of origin may also have an impact on migrants integration in the destination country*

State actors in the country of origin are not the only actors involved in the process of integration. Diverse non-state actors also have their places in the migration and integration processes. An interesting case in China is its 'education agencies', which provide information and administrative support to Chinese students moving abroad (Xiang, 2003). These agencies are sometimes remunerated by schools in the

country of destination (ibid.). Xiang (2003) further notes that these agencies provide a large range of services, from opening bank account to medical insurance, as well as occasionally transnational marriage arrangements. He underlines the possible emergence and institutionalisation of an "emigration industry" in China (Xiang 2003 : 35). It is thus important to take into account the diversity of actors including non-state actors involved directly or not in the migration process and which may have an impact on the integration process.

References

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INTERACT

Researching Third Country Nationals' Integration as a Three-way Process - Immigrants, Countries of Emigration and Countries of Immigration as Actors of Integration

The INTERACT project studies the impact of sending countries on migrant integration. It looks at the ways in which institutions and organisations in origin countries thicken transnational bonds by developing tools to boost financial transfers, maintain cultural heritages, enhance migrant political participation, and protect migrants' rights. It seeks to understand how these efforts impact migrant integration, as well as how origin country policies complement or contradict the integration measures of receiving country governments.

Tel: (+39) 055 4685 817/892 // Fax: (+39) 055 4685 - 755 // mpc@eui.eu

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Complete information can be found online at: interact-project.eu

