

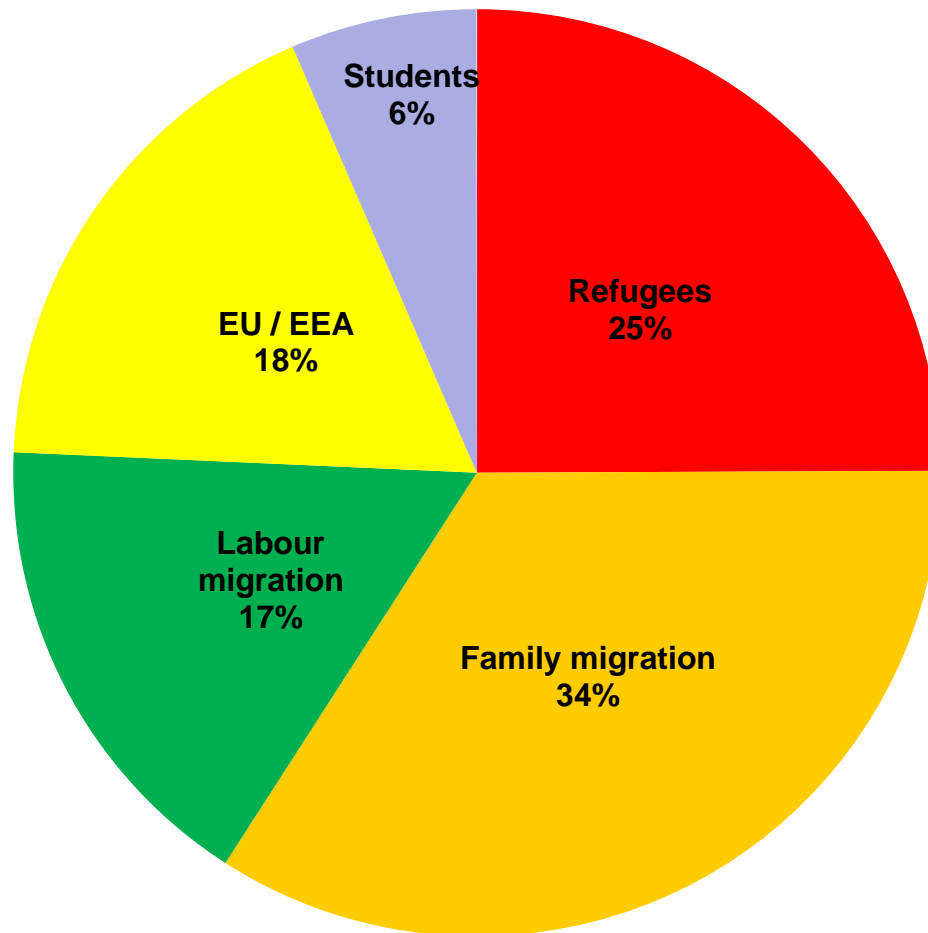
Addressing integration of migrants to prevent social divides in Sweden

Ministry of Employment

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Grounds for residence permits, 2013



n=116 000

The foreign-born population in Sweden

- **Population: 9.5 millions**
- **16 % foreign-born**
- **5 % native born with two foreign-born parents**
- **60 % of immigrants are Swedish citizens**
- **100 000-120 000 residence permits per year**

Some challenges

- **Long time from migration to entry into the labour market; unemployment is 2 – 3 times higher for foreign-born than for native-born**
- **Poorer school performance for immigrant children**
- **Difficult situation on the labour market links to other problems such as poor housing, social exclusion, health problems, lower participation in society**

Goals for Swedish integration policy

- **Equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities regardless of ethnic and cultural backgrounds**
- **Integration policy objectives to be achieved primarily within the framework of general policy**
- **General policies complemented with targeted measures for newly arrived refugees and their family members during their first two years in Sweden**

Effective reception and introduction of new arrivals

- **Introduction Act 2010**
- **Target group: refugees and their family members**
- **Focus on work and self-sufficiency**
- **Active participation in introduction activities through an individual introduction plan**
- **Public Employment Service takes overall responsibility for coordinating the introduction of new arrivals**
- **Content: employment preparatory activities, language courses and civic orientation**
- **A uniform individual public allowance linked to participation in the introduction plan**
- **Diversity of service providers for enhancing introduction of new arrivals**

Employment and entrepreneurship

- **“New-Start-Jobs” - exempt from payroll taxes for long-term unemployed and newly arrived immigrants.**
- **“Trial opportunity” - an additional form of job practice for individuals who lack work experience in Sweden.**
- **“Step-in-jobs” for new arrivals to combine language training with part time employment. Wage subsidy of 80% of the gross salary.**
- **Validation of foreign qualifications.**
- **Advice and mentoring for entrepreneurs with foreign background.**

Language and education for adults

- **Swedish for immigrants freely available; Government initiative for more individually tailored classes**
- **More possibilities for combining vocational and language education for adults**
- **Swedish language instructors offered opportunity to improve their teaching skills and in so doing enhance students' language take up**

Better educational performance and equality in schools

Ambitious program to improve educational performance in schools

- Efforts undertaken to strengthen basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics
- Special fund allocated for efforts to help pupils at risk of not achieving the school's goals.
- Obligatory checkpoints in the form of a national tests at the end of grades three, five and nine.
- Extra support in Swedish language for newly arrived pupils
- Targetted funding towards ten schools in excluded urban areas

Anti-discrimination & combatting racism

- **A comprehensive and single Anti-Discrimination Act from January 2009**
- **The Act applies to most areas of society, such as working life, education, housing, social services etc**
- **The law includes tougher penalties and higher levels of compensation for victims of discrimination**
- **Government initiative to combat myths and false information about migration / integration**

Urban development & citizenship

- **State support to 9 municipalities with excluded areas in terms of statistics, methods and networks**
- **Funding to municipalities that show positive results on increasing employment, improving school results and reducing social welfare dependency**
- **Ceremonies for new citizens; easier access to citizenship for children and young people**