The Social Integration of Syrian Refugees in Bonn

Questions from Observation

Why have some refugees made many new local friends in Bonn, while others seem to be isolated?

Do local friends benefit their structural integration?
Refugees who have been living in Bonn for more than two years, have acquired German language skills of at least B1 (GER), and live in private housing have built social networks that are bigger, more diverse in ethnicity and more rich in social resources.
Study Questions

1. Who are the social contacts of Syrian Refugees living in Bonn?

2. In how far do their social networks produce social resources?

3. Which factors contributed to the development of their social networks?
Measuring Social Integration

Indicators for Social Integration
Number of Contacts
Measuring Social Integration

Indicators for Social Integration
Number of Contacts
Origin
Measuring Social Integration

Indicators for Social Integration
Number of Contacts
Origin
Distance
Measuring Social Integration

Indicators for Social Integration:
- Number of Contacts
- Origin
- Distance

Indicators for Social Resources:
- Education / Employment
Measuring Social Integration

Indicators for Social Integration
Number of Contacts
Origin
Distance

Indicators for Social Resources:
Education / Employment
Contact Frequency
Measuring Social Integration

Indicators for Social Integration
Number of Contacts
Origin
Distance

Indicators for Social Resources:
Education / Employment
Contact Frequency
Emotional Distance
Measuring Social Integration

Indicators for Social Integration:
- Number of Contacts
- Origin
- Distance

Indicators for Social Resources:
- Education / Employment
- Contact Frequency
- Emotional Distance
- Shared activities
Methods

Social Integration and Social Ressources:
Ego-centered Network Analysis

Development Factors:
Questionnaire survey with open response categories
Results

DIVERSITY

Size of Networks
- 10 – 28 Contacts

New Contacts
- 3 – 19 Contacts

Origin of Contacts
- 0 – 15 Germans

Transnational Contacts
- 3 – 11 Contacts
Trends of Social Integration

- German contacts often deliver practical help and information, often highly educated and employed
- Syrian contacts more often deliver emotional support and cultural activities, often highly educated, but unemployed
- Transnational contact is strong – mostly due to family bonds
- Contacts to other groups are rare
Answer to Thesis

YES

• Time, Language Skills and Housing supported social integration
• Social Distance and Cultural Differences feel important
• Platforms for intercultural contacts were very helpful

Language courses and private housing have to be provided much faster!
Thanks for your Attention!

Feel free to ask questions 😊
Example: Yussuf (m, 24)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Transnational Syrian Contacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contacts from other Origins</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Example: Fatma (f,32)

Contacts of German Origin
Contacts of Syrian Origin
Transnational Syrian Contacts
Contacts from other Origins

Contact Frequency