



THEME 2: Intercultural Dialogue

Teaching and Learning aids

Fact based approach

Immigration

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1. Introduction

This teaching unit focuses on the phenomenon of immigration and concentrates mainly on recent events in Cyprus, Spain and Italy.

Between the 1950s and 1970s these countries were countries of emigration (see collection of materials Tf 250/2, Source 2). This situation has changed since and during recent years immigration into these countries has increased to such a dramatic extent that thousands of immigrants are risking their lives.

Particularly Spain, Italy and Greece as well as Cyprus have not been prepared for such a status while other EU countries such as Britain or the Netherlands have clearly defined approaches to the issue.

Cyprus has received a variety of immigrants. The range starts from illegal immigrants (with or without qualification) to employees for numerous off-shore companies. Therefore, Cyprus is in a particular situation. With the opening of the Green Line in 2003 the influx of illegal immigrants from the Turkish occupied area has increased.

After having entered the EU, Cyprus has to meet the requirements of the Schengen agreement and encounters difficulties similar to those in Greece, Italy and Spain, i.e. guarding its coast.

2. Didactic Objectives

- Present the reasons for immigration into European countries.
- Explain the difficulties immigrants face when they enter a member country of the EU illegally.
- Reasons for a defensive attitude towards non-regulated immigration into the European Union.
- Developing empathy towards the situation of immigrants, focusing on issues such as justice and human rights.
- Encourage helpfulness

3. Methodological Objectives

- Appropriate use of sources
- Internet research for additional information

4. Comments to individual question/tasks (see collection of teaching material Tf 250/1)

Ref. Tf 1.1

It has to be clarified which type of immigration we are talking about:

- Legal immigration (with the aim the stay permanently in the host country)
- Illegal immigration
In some countries there exists a regulation for legal immigration (with the aim of bringing together family members) without the intention on the side of the immigrants to stay permanently in the host country.
- Asylum seekers
- Foreign workers from EU countries or contract workers from non-EU countries.

It is also important to differentiate between immigrants of the first, second and third generation. Under certain circumstances specific problems do not diminish with a long stay in the host country but, on the contrary, they increase (e.g. Turks in Germany, Moroccans in the Netherlands or Algerians in France).

Ref. Tf 1.2

Students should find a number of motives for people to immigrate. In question b. students have to argue which of the motives rank higher. Are political motives more acceptable than economic motives?

Ref. Tf 1.3

Here students should contrast and compare the sources. Regarding the authorities' reactions: reasons could be political pressure in the host countries, economic reasons (high unemployment), racism, badly trained government officials

Ref. Tf 1.4

It is essential to clarify whether one wants to look at immigration just in the context of economic usefulness for Europe or whether immigration also seen as contributing to an enhancement of ideas and cultural values.

Equally important is the question of the impact of emigration on the countries of origin. This impact can be positive (e.g. money transfers) or negative (loss of hardworking and well-trained individuals).

Ref. Tf 1.5

A completely different type of questions has to be answered referring to immigrants who have been staying in a country for a long time, either legally or in a state of tacit permission. This section will deal with:

- Is it necessary minorities to integrate into the host society? If yes, why?
- What is required to achieve integration on the side of the immigrants and on the side of the host countries?
- Under what conditions is immigration possible?
- What are the consequences if immigrants do not integrate successfully?

Regarding this issue there are further details in the paper by Edmund OHLENDORF located in COMCULT theme 2 "The nation state between integration, transformation and immigration", p. 7ff including teaching material, p. 8, Gp 202/2.

Ref. Tf 1.6

This question is for discussion. Do former colonizers have the duty to accept immigrants from their former colonies?

Ref. Tf 1.7

When looking at an issue such as immigration the role of the media has to be taken into consideration, both in the countries of origin and the receiving countries. Obviously, African and Asian media give false impressions which do not reflect the reality in Europe. Nor do these media give any information regarding the difficulties immigrants have to face during the process of obtaining work permits.

On the other hand, European media provoke fears when they present immigrants as criminal idlers and drug dealers or as desperate, helpless individuals whose aim it is to loot European social services.

External Links / Informationsquellen im Internet

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/world/2002/europe_and_immigration/

<http://www.windsofchange.net/archives/002556.php>

<http://www.ce-review.org/99/21/vidali21.html>

<http://immigration.about.com/library/weekly/aa071700a.htm>

<http://www.eumap.org/sitemap>