

Civic Integration of Immigrants in Contemporary Europe : A Comparative Analysis.

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Summary

More and more European states require immigrants from outside the EU to pass civic integration tests and courses in different stages of the immigration and integration process. Most of those states made passing them a condition for obtaining a permanent resident status or permitting a visa for family reunification. Through the comparison of national legislations in six EU member states (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and the analysis of legal constraints derived from EU law, this paper examines two aspects of civic integration. Firstly, does the international diffusion of civic integration mean a general convergent trend in immigrant integration policies? Secondly, do those extensions of linkage between citizenship and integration tests stand for re-nationalization of citizenship or not? Does civic integration actually mean help or hindrance?