



Ethnosizing Immigrants

by Amelie F. Constant, Liliya Gataullina,
Klaus F. Zimmermann



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NEW IZA STUDY: MEASURING IMMIGRANTS' SUCCESS BY FOCUSING ON THE EFFECTS OF ETHNIC IDENTITY

A recent IZA study, authored by IZA experts Amelie F. Constant, Klaus F. Zimmermann and Liliya Gataullina, sheds new light on the role of ethnicity within the process of immigrants' absorption in the host country. The study develops the "ethnosizer", a new measure of the intensity of a person's ethnic identity, using information on language, culture, societal interaction, history of migration, and ethnic self-identification.

A two-dimensional version classifies immigrants into four states: integration, assimilation, separation, and marginalization. Based on the German Socio-economic Panel for 2001, the analysis finds that young migrants are assimilated or integrated the most. While Muslims and Christians do not integrate, both

assimilate the best. Immigrants with college in the home country are less prone to separation. In terms of integration and assimilation, having some schooling is less favorable than no schooling at all. While ex-Yugoslavs assimilate more, Greeks, Italians and Spaniards do not differ from Turks.

The study is a substantially revised version of IZA Discussion Paper No. 2040 and has now been published in the Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization. Financial support from the Volkswagen Foundation for the IZA project on "The Economics and Persistence of Migrant Ethnicity" is gratefully acknowledged. To learn more about ongoing IZA research on this topic, please contact migration@iza.org.