Local communities and immigrant integration in the Netherlands

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Abstract

Integration as a concept is used to research the position of immigrants and their progenies. Integration is therefore used to investigate how immigrants become part of society. The concept of society is constantly changing. But how people perceive society is key in order to define immigrant integration. This research therefore doesn't only investigate the conception of society and integration, but also gives an in-depth view on how several social elements within society play their part regarding the integration of immigrants. Social relations seem to be key when looking at immigrant integration. Social relations in society are often best investigated when looked upon at a local scale. Thus, this research investigates the relationship between immigrant integration and local communities.

Local communities and its residents, non-immigrants, seem to play a big role in immigrant integration. Immigrants can change local communities, but local communities can shape the integration process of immigrants. Several conceptual frameworks have been designed in order to define a 'successful integration process'. This research shows a mixed-methods approach trough a survey and interviews. It therefore uses a qualitative, as well as a quantitative research design.

The survey's first section contains quantitative data, while the second section contains qualitative data through the form of open questions. The interviews are solely qualitative, and the data is derived from seven interviews.

The results shows that social relations and Dutch values and beliefs are important to non-immigrants within local communities. Non-immigrants perceive the Dutch society as cultural divers, free and equal. People migrating for all sort of different reasons are relatively well accepted among non-immigrants. However, many non-immigrants believe Dutch society to be overly full.

When settling in the Netherlands, non-immigrants believe that immigrants should integrate well in society. Learning the Dutch language, values and beliefs are key factors to respondents regarding immigrant integration. Also, social factors seem to play a high role regarding integration. Non-immigrants within local communities find that the Dutch government should consider not only to include speaking the Dutch language in their policy, but also the social networks that are key to integrate into a neighborhood. Furthermore, non-immigrants believe that immigrants enrich our understanding of culture. Most non-immigrants find that it is important for locals to be open-minded and to accept immigrants into society, but that non-immigrants and local communities are not responsible.

Keywords: immigrants, integration, conception of society, social relations, local communities, non-immigrants

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Migration studies have developed a distinct body of knowledge on not only how people migrate, but also on what the consequences are of migration in a broad sense, both for migrants themselves and for societies involved in migration (Scholten, 2022). Migration itself is not a new phenomenon, but the interdisciplinary study of migration is relatively recent. There are different forms of migration, but all forms have something in common. Namely that integration is a key phenomenon that accompanies migration in the western world. The concept of integration has become subject of a scholarly and politically debate over the last couple of years (Saharso, 2019). Policy, political and public debate around the concept of integration and its objectives is divers. Integration has become the key concept for analyzing migration (Alba & Foner, 2015). Integration as a concept is used to research the position of immigrants and their progenies. Integration is therefore used to investigate in what positions immigrants end up and whether this can be improved. Others argue that the concept of integration is used by governments for managing ‘diversity’ (Klarenbeek, 2021). Similarly, integration is seen by some as “the inclusion of individual migrants into the core institutions of the receiving society” (Heckmann, 2006). While others refer to it as “the process of becoming an accepted part of society” (Penninx & Garcés-Mascareñas, 2016).

While there is no one common definition of integration and its objectives, the concept of society is a reoccurring phenomenon accompanying immigrant integration. The historical concept of society can be explained by several elements. It was an idea for a utopian future where people could live together and there would be tolerance for cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity (Kocka, 2004). The amount of individuals with a migration background is rising. Thus, the concept of society is changing too. In 2021 for example, 14% of the Dutch population had a migration background (CBS, 2022).

Onderwerp / Migratieachtergrond			Perioden				
			2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1e en 2e generatie migratieachtergrond	Met migratieachtergrond	aantal	3 971 859	4 086 138	4 220 705	4 305 908	4 438 900
	Westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	1 729 016	1 774 271	1 828 645	1 858 730	1 909 408
	Niet-westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	2 242 843	2 311 867	2 392 060	2 447 178	2 529 492
1e generatie migratieachtergrond	Met migratieachtergrond	aantal	2 079 329	2 161 684	2 262 256	2 312 921	2 412 344
	Westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	836 178	876 946	925 952	951 072	996 928
	Niet-westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	1 243 151	1 284 738	1 336 304	1 361 849	1 415 416
2e generatie migratieachtergrond	Met migratieachtergrond	aantal	1 892 530	1 924 454	1 958 449	1 992 987	2 026 556
	Westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	892 838	897 325	902 693	907 658	912 480
	Niet-westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	999 692	1 027 129	1 055 756	1 085 329	1 114 076

Bron: CBS

Figure 1: Inhabitants of the Netherlands with a migration background. Source: CBS, 2022.

Therefore, the conception of society and integration becomes more important. What does the concept of society mean to individuals and how do these individuals perceive society?

Even today, as society is constantly changing and evolving, it remains largely in the framework of a nation-state ideal (Kocka, 2004). The nation-state ideal describes a geographical area as one nation united under a cultural identity (Esser, 2006). Kocka explains that society and communities are closely linked to the public sphere and “the public sphere involves communication, and communication requires a common language” (2004, p. 76). According to Ulceluse, Bock & Haartsen (2021) settling immigrants have a significant effect on the local residents. Immigrants can transform job- and housing markets, school systems, and the diversity of communities (Sharp, 2022). Immigrants can change the structure of local communities. Immigrant integration is perceived different among local residents (Ulceluse, Bock & Haartsen, 2021). The conception of society is therefore key, to develop a good integration process.

In order to investigate the integration process of immigrants, one must therefore not only look at the concept of society, but also how society and integration is perceived. One must look at how integration is perceived by not only immigrants, but also by the local (non-immigrant) communities, because they play a big part in immigrant integration (Schinkel, 2017).

In the past, research has been done on government policies regarding integration. Also, an ample of research has been done by investigating the point of view from the immigrants. The framework of this research therefore doesn’t only investigate the conception of society and integration, but also gives an in-depth view on how several social elements within society play their part regarding the integration of immigrants.

Immigrants are looking for a place to settle, but how integration is looked at in practice, makes all the difference. In essence, governments are the linkage between civil society and migrants (Hollifield, 2012). But in practice, social relations between non-immigrants and immigrants seem to be key to integration.
Therefore, this research will try to contemplate the relationship between immigrant integration and local communities. This research will investigate the role that local (non-immigrant) communities play. It will do so, by researching the conception of society by local non-immigrants within local communities. How they perceive society and what their opinion is regarding immigrants and immigrant integration. It is expected that they play a big part in immigrant integration.

1.2 Societal relevance

As described above, the concept of society plays a big part in explaining integration. This research will show the relationship between (non-immigrant) local communities and the integration of immigrants. Immigrants are looking for a place to settle, but whether integration is looked at as a one-way process or a two-way process, makes all the difference. Government policy contemplates the essence of immigrants integrating into a society that is mostly homogenic. But what governments often fail to contemplate, are the social relations and networks.
From a societal point of view, the critical assessment of the role that the concept of society plays in integration of migrants is particularly relevant considering which theories and boundaries are linked to this concept. They can work as advocates in understanding the concept of society. In essence, governments are the linkage between civil society and migrants (Hollifield, 2012). But in practice, social relations between local non-immigrants and immigrants are the key to integration. Whether this relation is fulfilled in reality and whether local residents perceive it in this way is the question only non-immigrants themselves can answer. The results of this research can be used by multiple actors.

First, (local) governmental institutions can learn from experiences of non-immigrants within local communities. They can take note of the successes and failures of relational integration and important policy implications can be derived. Second, local non-immigrants can use the results of this research to reflect on the opportunities they themselves provide to immigrants. They can experience whether they are biased and if they offer migrants every opportunity possible to integrate. Lastly, immigrants themselves can experience in what way hierarchical power relations and social networks play a role within the integration processes to society and can learn from them.

1.3 Scientifical relevance

This research is academically relevant as bottom-up approaches are underexplored in academic debate. Most written literature on integration focuses on national policies and large-scale reforms (Squire, 2017). This research introduces scholars and (local) governments to alternative, small-scale experiences to cope. By doing so, this research helps to instigate academic discussions on how different scales of approaching the integration of immigrants into local communities can offer different initiatives. It also reveals the complexity of dealing with migration for not only governments, but also for non-immigrants as their lives are the ones changing as well. Several studies have shown that the integration of immigrants is gaining more attention to policy making (Squire, 2017; Kasparek, 2016). However, not much research has been done before on the role of (non-immigrant) local communities regarding the integration of immigrants.

1.4 Research question

Integration of immigrants involves different actors and policy processes. Concepts such as norms, values, beliefs, and practices still play a big part considering the integration of immigrants. But one can argue that integration policies still focus too much on people with a migration background. This claim in itself is not new and is endorsed by both proponents and opponents of integration research (Klarenbeek, 2021). The fact that non-immigrants generally take on more powerful positions in society than immigrants do, makes the non-immigrants more likely to be able to affect the course of social change (Klarenbeek, 2021).

Integration is indeed highly linked to a number of social relations (Klarenbeek, 2021). The concept of community is one that referred to significant social relations (Ager & Strang, 2008). Social relations are the foundation for the formation of social networks. Social networks are viewed as a field of social interaction that has neither unit nor boundaries; they give an individual the sense of belonging (Piselli, 2007). In other words, personal networks are the ties that bound individuals to a certain community (Piselli, 2007).
To fully understand what shapes the integration process of immigrants one must therefore not only look at how governments define integration and how immigrants are affected by it, but one must also look at how the receiving local communities perceives society and immigrant integration; what role they play within this process. This research therefore tries to contemplate in what way non-immigrants, local communities, shape the integration process of immigrants. To fully understand this process on a local scale, several

individuals will be taken as an example for Dutch society. A survey and several interviews are conducted in order to answer the research question.

The research question in this research will be: **How do local communities shape the integration process of immigrants?**

In order to answer the main research question, this thesis formulates the following sub-questions:

1. *How do non-immigrants within local communities perceive society?*
2. *How do non-immigrants within local communities perceive the integration of immigrants?*
3. *What role do local communities play regarding immigrant integration?*

2. Theoretical framework

2.1 Literature review

2.1.1 Immigrants and integration

In the current age of migration, integration is conceived as a means to preserve the cultural identity constructed under the ideals of the nation-state (Esser, 2006). The cultural traditions of individuals coherent in a group are not to be overlooked. Thus, by calling forward the concept of integration, boundaries are essential to be looked at (Schinkel, 2017). “The concept of integration allows the identification of what does not belong” (Schinkel, 2017, p. 3).

Western European governments and societies observe immigrants as ‘not yet present in society’, although these immigrants are often part of the social process. Immigrants settled in the nation-state are therefore still considered as ‘outside society’. The social implications are always political, according to Laclau and Mouffe (2001).
Klarenbeek (2021) for example, states that there may not be just one model of an integrated society. A society consists of a number of social relations that can work in different ways. A concept such as human territoriality for example, describes the process of geographic space that is supposedly "claimed" by a particular group (Raffestin, 2012). This so-called claimed space consists of a bundle of societal relations. Rather than taking the unequal distribution between people as a focus point, we should investigate the relations in which valuable (im)material goods are distributed, also called relational integration (Klarenbeek, 2021). Immigrants often do not enjoy the social standing that non-immigrants do enjoy (Klarenbeek, 2021). Citizenship therefore has a lot of influence on the sense of belonging. People who are citizens of a certain geographical concentration often feel more at home than those who are not.

We should look at integration as a two-way process (Klarenbeek, 2021). The receiving society, local residents, are also subject to change. The receiving society can influence the process of immigrant integration. Theories regarding integration are mostly focused on the one-way process of immigrants and mostly ignore that of the receiving society. Relational integration describes that people integrate with each other and not only into a society or nation-state (Klarenbeek, 2021). It is the societal relations and networks that ensure that immigrants are accepted into certain places. However, western European

governments have only strengthened the process of “feeling outside society”, from using minorities policies in the 1980s to introducing the integration policies in 2003 (Scholten & Van Nispen, 2008). Within this integration policy, immigrants are described by ‘a permanent presence and a diversified origin’ (Scholten & Van Nispen, 2008). The solution that is offered by integration, is that of cultural adaptation and common citizenship. But why do we continue to put focus on the process of cultural adaptation? As Schinkel (2017) described, the theoretical frame of integration establishes a secure referent of one society. The Dutch government states that integration contains key elements as:

> “People who are moving to the Netherlands for a long period of time or permanently must be able to participate in Dutch society. The government believes it is important for them to integrate” (Government of the Netherlands, 2022).

It is therefore that “we cannot understand political integration without profoundly investigating the power relations …” (Klarenbeek, 2021, p. 67). We are mainly focused on the fact that immigrants need to integrate that we forget that immigrants are not only political objects, but also simply people in need of social contact. When immigrants settle, those power relations are distributed unequally between them and the receiving society. Relational inequality emerges where relations constitute superior and inferior social positions that result into unequal distributions of opportunities, freedoms, and access to specific resources (Klarenbeek 2021). Besides relational inequality, distributive inequality plays its part regarding the social position of immigrants (Klarenbeek, 2021). As the social position of immigrants is highly linked to the economic power relations, the relational integration is complicated by distributive inequality.

Often governments allow immigrants who are highly educated and contribute to an extensive amount to the national economy far easier than immigrants who do not (Sharp, 2022). Distributive inequality is therefore often a result from not only exclusion on the labour market, but also from that of social networks (Sharp, 2022). Distributive inequality is explained by hierarchical membership relations. The process of legitimation explains a hierarchical membership. It refers to “recognition processes of the value of an entity” (Klarenbeek, 2021, p. 102). And whether an individual is thought the norms, values, beliefs, and practices of that entity. In order to simplify the integration of immigrants, hierarchical membership has to be identified; corresponding social boundaries have to be recognized. Unequal power relations continues to create immigrant’ restrictions for the disadvantaged (Sharp, 2022). Relational integration states that we should shift the problems regarding integration from the immigrants towards the two-way process relations between people (Klarenbeek, 2021).

2.1.2 Conception of society and integration

But how do we perceive society? The historical concept of society can be explained by several elements. As Reichardt stated “civil society was a term accorded to a legitimate political order” (2004, p. 36). It was an idea for a utopian future where people could live together and there would be tolerance for cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity (Kocka, 2004). However, with the rise of capitalism, the concept of society changed. It is believed that economic determinants such as income and wealth, are highly linked to social power. The concept of society is characterized by three elements (Kocka, 2004). First, society is a type of social action. “It works actively for the common good based on the particular experience and interests of each individual” (Kocka, 2004, p. 69). Second, society operates through a sphere of connections. And thirdly, society remains subject to change. Societies are constantly changing and are never defined by one feature. Klarenbeek argues that “conventionally, integration is conceptualized as a process of social change that, if successful, results in a situation in which formerly ‘non-integrated immigrants’ are now integrated into a society” (Klarenbeek, 2021, p. 11). Similarly, Laclau and Mouffe (2001) call for the need to resist conceiving society as an entity and identity, as a nationalized order that contains borders.

The Dutch government has for example, implemented tests in order for migrants to fully integrate into Dutch society and obtain the Dutch citizenship. One test is the exam for Dutch literacy (Kurvers & Spotti, 2015). Ability in the Dutch language is considered as one of the most important features regarding Dutch integration (Kurvers & Spotti, 2015). Furthermore, the Dutch government makes use of so-called ‘multicultural models’. A key feature is that “its tendency to institutionalize cultural pluralism in the belief that cultural emancipation of immigrant minorities is the key to their integration into Dutch society” (Duyvendak & Scholten, 2011, pp. 339).

However, the use of this multicultural models by Dutch governmental institutions can have the opposite effect. It can reinforce ethnic cleavages and strengthen segregation (Koopmans, 2007). Researchers and policy institutions often tend to adopt normative models for framing social society (Koopmans, 2007). There are, however, fundamental differences in how immigrant integration is defined and normatively interpreted by different actors (Scholten & Van Nispen, 2008). Immigrants are expected to be integrated into Dutch society, but the better question one should as is how? Local residents are often left out of the equation (Schinkel, 2017). This implies the knowledge gap on what role local communities play in immigrant integration.

Whether one feels at home at a place, is dependent on their social relations and/or power, which is often linked to their economic power (Kocka, 2004). Networks are therefore very important. Immigrants often look for these networks in order to secure their integration into society (Ryan, 2004). They look for networks through weak ties: someone they don't know well but has the same cultural feature; or through strong ties: someone they do know well, such as friends or family. It is thereby important that migrants experience a process of 'bridging capital', where they expand their network with non-immigrants (Ryan, 2004).

Scholars argue that immigrants need to comply with certain key elements of integration. Accordingly, Ager & Strang (2008) developed ten key elements of 'successful integration'.

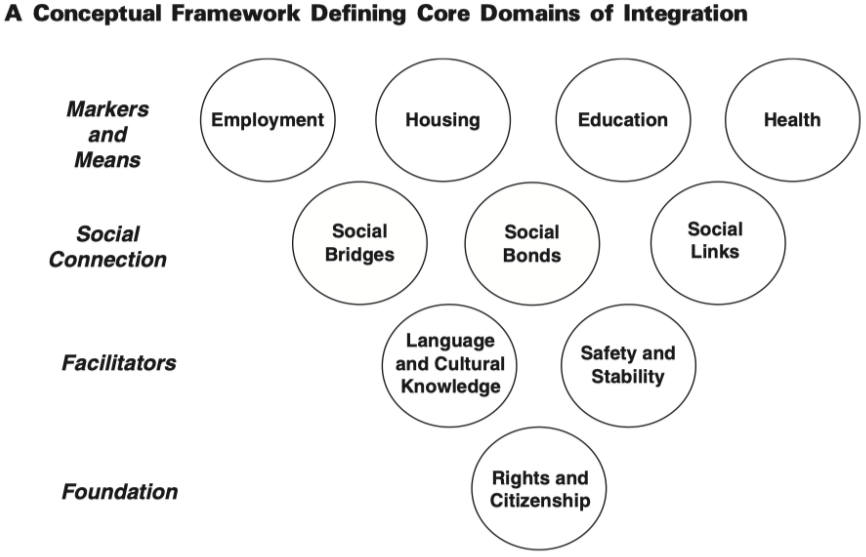

Figure 2: Key elements of integration (Ager & Strang, 2008).

The elements cover achievement and access across the sectors of employment, housing, education, and health. They also state that processes of social connection within and between groups in the community are key for immigrants to establish meaningful social relations (Ager & Strang, 2008).

And why is the social connection to local communities key for integration of immigrants? Because immigrants' presence and activities change the places where they live (Adelman, 2020). Immigrants can transform job and housing markets, school systems, and the diversity of communities (Sharp, 2022). Local communities are in their turn, key in establishing social relations and connections for immigrants. As described above, integration of immigrants is a two-way process. It is therefore remarkable that government policies and scholars often do not include the essence of local communities.

2.2 Conceptual framework

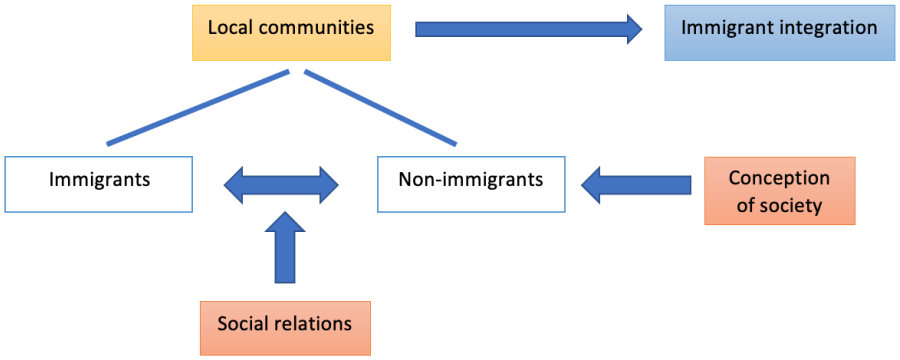

Figure 3: Conceptual framework 1 (Van Mourik, 2022).

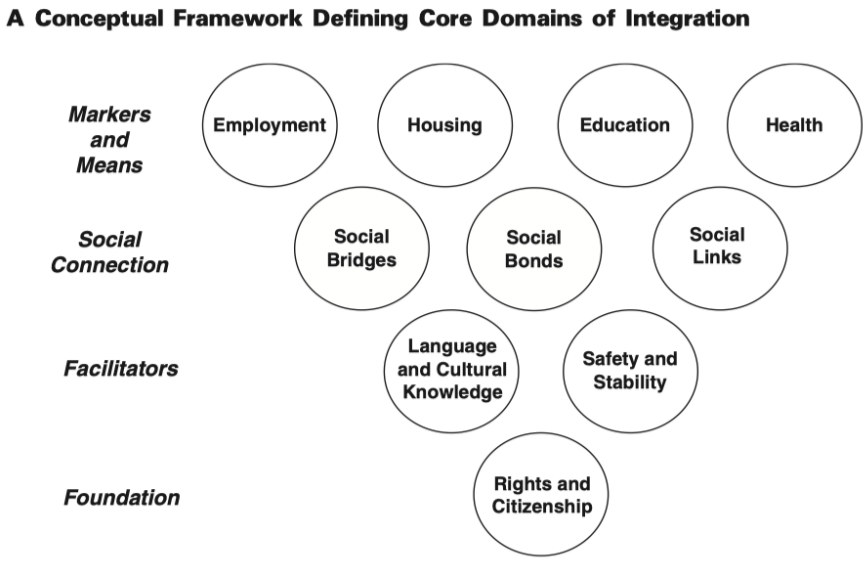

Figure 4: Conceptual framework 2: Key elements of integration (Ager & Strang, 2008).

2.2.1 Operationalization

Next to the conceptual framework above, the conceptual framework of Ager & Strang (2008) is taken into account (Appendix, Figure 2).

As can be seen in the conceptual framework above the framework has been divided up into certain main aspects. Immigrant integration is affected by local communities, based on the existing literature discussed aforehand. “Local communities play a big part in immigrant integration” (Schinkel, 2017). Integration is a two-way process: the receiving society, local residents, are also subject to change; people integrate with each other (Klarenbeek, 2021).

Within local communities there are local immigrant' – and non-immigrant' residents present. These shape the local community through their social relations. However, the conception of society, how society is perceived, influences non-immigrants regarding their social interaction within local communities. The concept of society is one that referrers to social relations (Piselli, 2007). There are, namely, fundamental differences in how immigrant integration is defined and normatively interpreted by different actors (Scholten & Van Nispen, 2008).

Firstly, beliefs about the concept of society by non-immigrants influence the local communities. While social relations influence the non-immigrants and in turn the non-immigrants within local communities.

Secondly, local communities, as described by the literature above, explains the integration of immigrants. Immigrants are accepted by or not accepted by local communities and social relations are key in this. This research will try to contemplate this relationship.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodological structures on existing studies

Ager & Strang (2008) argued that there are ten key elements of 'successful integration'. These ten key elements represent the core domains of integration. *Foundation* is the first step into integration, which represents rights and citizenship. Without it, migrants aren't even allowed into the country in the first place. Securing this ensures migrants can call themselves citizen of a country. *Facilitators* is the second step. Language and cultural knowledge; safety and stability ensure migrants to settle in properly. Without comprehension of the cultural knowledge and often the language, integration becomes hard for immigrants. *Social connection* in the form of social bonds, social bridges or social links is the third step. Social bonding is the process of social connection. Whereas social bridging is a type of social tie that connects two different groups in a social network. It is considered a natural first step before thinking about the last step, namely *markers and means.* This last step contemplates certain economic and educational factors such as housing and employment.

The concept of society is one that referrers to social relations (Piselli, 2007). Kocka (2004) describes that the concept of society is characterized by three elements. First, society is a type of social action. Second, society operates through a sphere of connections. And thirdly, society remains subject to change. Our conception of society is highly important as immigrants are to integrate within that society. Without a proper definition and picture of society, it becomes extremely hard for immigrants to integrate.
Klarenbeek (2021) states that there may not be just one model of an integrated society. A society consists of a number of social relations that can work in different ways. As discussed in the literature review above, we should investigate the relations in which valuable (im)material goods are distributed, also called relational integration (Klarenbeek, 2021). Immigrants often do not enjoy the social standing that non-immigrants do enjoy (Klarenbeek, 2021). We should look at integration as a two-way process (Klarenbeek, 2021). Relational integration describes that people integrate with each other and not only into a society or nation-state (Klarenbeek, 2021).

Crul and Lelie (2021) argue that researchers in the last 50 years have primarily focused on immigrants; seeking to answer question on how they integrate into the receiving society. As described earlier in this research, integration is a two-way process, also

involving people without migration background. Crul and Lelie (2021) state that we need to include the positions of power and how these affect the integration regarding immigrants. Based on this, they explain the key drivers determining the position of people without migrant background. Rejection and exclusion are result of opinions regarding economic competition, claim of reversed discrimination and feeling of entitlement (Crul & Lelie, 2021). Openness and inclusion are result of key drivers such as social justice, solidarity, feeling safe and anti-discrimination (Crul & Lelie, 2021).

3.2 Methodological approach in this research

The methodological framework can be divided into two parts in terms of data collection. Subsequently, the research shows a mixed-methods approach. This research therefore uses a qualitative research design, divided into two sections.
The results are categorized into three sections, each elaborating on one of the sub-questions. Relevant quantitative and qualitative data is derived from the analysis of the survey. Qualitative data is derived from the interviews that were conducted during the fieldwork. A total of *seven interviews* were conducted. The variety of respondents allows us to draw an extensive image of immigrants and integration in Dutch cities. And thus, it is seen how different non-immigrants in local communities engage and communicate in this process.

3.2.1 Data collection through survey

Qualitative and quantitative design

Key concepts from existing literature, explaining rejection and exclusion, and openness and inclusion, are used for drawing up the questions in the survey. This way, opinions of inhabitants from local communities in Dutch cities can be analyzed and used for this research. The choice of Dutch cities is made due to the fact that immigrants mostly settle in cities compared to the countryside and smaller villages (Kurvers & Spotti, 2015). Respondents are from cities all over the Netherlands, not from a specific city. This choice is made due to the expectation that it is important to look at communities and residents on a local scale as a whole, not in a specific city.

The first section therefore contains of a survey that is conducted among Dutch non-immigrants within local communities between the age of 19 years and 79 years old. 37 respondents of different political backgrounds, religions and incomes have answered questions from the survey (*see Appendix, figure 4, 5 and 6*). This way, the external validity of the research is higher due to a higher number of answers.

The concepts of social relations and networks, migration, and society were analyzed through an extensive survey on non-immigrants within local communities of Dutch cities. This provided a clear overview of the perception of society, migration, and social networks in local communities. As can be observed in the conceptual framework it has mostly focused on the fact in what way non-immigrants think about immigrants and integration. Things like norms, values, beliefs, social practices, behavior, and opinions on migration have been measured. These topics have been measured categorical (on a 1-5 scale) or numerical depending on the type of variable.

3.2.2 Data collection through interviews

Qualitative design

The second section comprises a case-study in which in-depth interviews were conducted. These interviews were held among non-immigrants within local communities of Dutch cities. This way the internal validity of the research was improved.

The interviews in this research have been taken separately among the interview subjects. The respondents from the interviews have been asked open questions following an interview guide set up beforehand. These questions, like the survey conducted earlier, examined different aspects of the integrations process regarding immigrants. The respondents have answered questions about their own experiences and opinions concerning migration dynamics, concepts of society and cultural practices, and integration.

Within these interviews the perception of non-immigrants within local communities have been investigated: how these local citizens perceive the integration of immigrants. The interviews were slightly semi-structured with regards to the conceptual framework, but were mainly open interviews, to really grasp how the non-immigrants perceive integration. Furthermore, these local citizens have been asked about policies regarding the integration of immigrants into society, which difficulties they might encounter and whether or not they think it is successful. They were asked questions about their political, ethnical, cultural, and social background. Also, they were asked what their belief of society is and what they understand under the concept of society.

These interviews were preferred to be done face-to-face. This face-to-face interview was preferred due to some advantages of live interviews. The interviewee can ask for clarification at the moment that is needed, follow-up questions are easy to apply and the visual contact with the interviewee allows the interviewers to be aware of one's facial expressions (Lupton, 2021). Facial expressions can tell for instance whether the interviewee doesn't feel comfortable or whether he/she doesn't quite understand what the

interviewers have said. However, some respondents from the interviews were not able to do the interview face-to-face. These interviews were held with the help of Zoom. This allowed the interviewer and interviewee see each other live through a camera.
The interviews have been transcribed and coded to properly analyze the main thoughts. The conclusion has reflected on this extensively and a brief summary on the integration of immigrants in Dutch cities has been formulated.

3.3 Reliability and validity

In this section, the reliability and validity of the mixed-methods research is discussed. The mixed-methods approach contemplated the combination of a quantitative method and a qualitative method. The research methods consisted of an online survey amongst non-immigrants within Dutch cities. Also, multiple interviews with non-immigrants within Dutch cities were taken. The aim was to ensure that the validity and reliability were as high as possible.

Regarding the validity of the research, the research data was collected from more than one source, through interviews and an online survey. The collection of data through one source can be biased. Therefore, within this research, preference was given to the collection of information through a variety of techniques. By applying different techniques, it was possible to compare and validate qualitative results with quantitative results; to compare survey results with interview results. Respondents of the survey were therefore asked about their age, employment status, households, and educational background, as well as the respondents from the interview. This way the validity was increased.

Regarding the reliability of the research, there was specific focus on the choice of participants, methods of data collection, data interpretation, and the recording of the data. The qualitative data was subjective. The quantitative data of the survey was analyzed by using descriptive statistics and the qualitative data with descriptive interpretations. To increase the reliability of the interview, they were recorded and saved. The quantitative data was compared to the qualitative data which improved the internal reliability of the results and the qualitative data itself.

4. Results

This chapter lists and analyzes the most important results. The results are categorized into three sections, each elaborating on one of the sub-questions. Relevant data is derived from the analysis of the survey as well as the interviews that were conducted during the fieldwork. A total of seven interviews were conducted. The variety of respondents allows to draw an extensive image of immigrants and integration in Dutch cities. And thus, it is seen how different actors engage and communicate in this process. First respondents of the survey were asked several general questions. These questions surrounded subjects like educational background, employment status, and household status. The following figures, show pie charts with answers from the respondents.

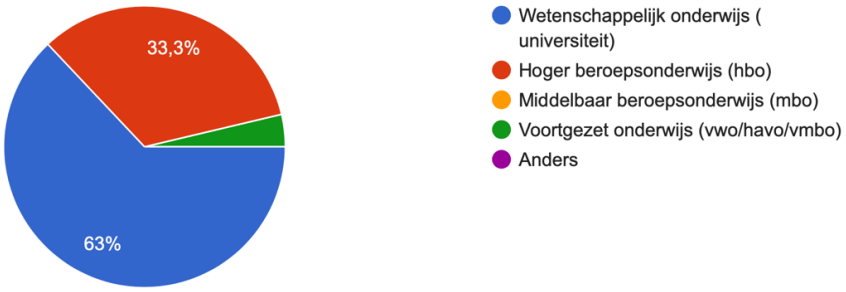

Figure 4: Educational background (Survey, 2022)

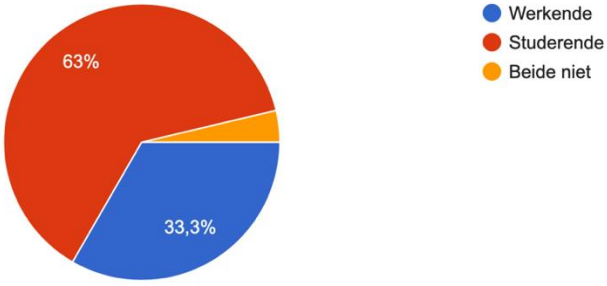

Figure 5: Employment status (Survey, 2022)

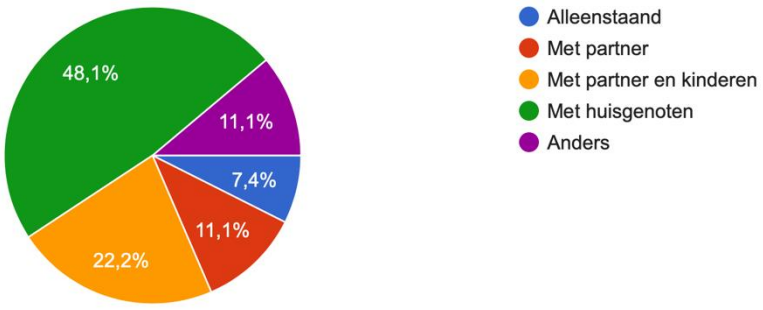

Figure 6: Household status (Survey, 2022)

As can be seen above, most respondents of the survey were either employed or still studying. Most respondents have enjoyed hbo or university (wo) as their highest level of

education, while a small percentage has only completed their high school. Figure 6 shows the variety in households between the respondents. Most live with roommates or with their partner and children. Furthermore, most respondents of the survey identified themselves as male and the age of the respondents ranged from 19 years to 79 years old.

4.1 Non-immigrants within local communities and conception of society

Local communities contemplate a large role within society. The survey shows that social networks and relationships are quite important to people on a daily basis. Social relations in this research is understood as social networks and bonds. Following Ager & Strang (2008) social connections or social relations exist of three aspects. Namely, social bridges, social bonds, and social links. And thus, the research shows how important find non-immigrants the process of connecting with different groups and/or establishing an important social connection.

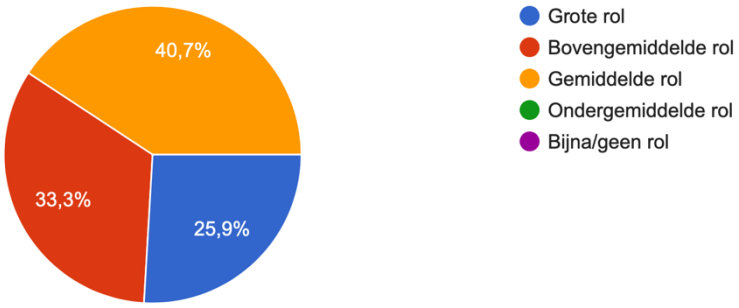

Figure 7: Role of social relations in people's daily life (Survey, 2022)

Around 59% finds that social networks and relationships play a big or upper-mediate role in their daily lives and around 40% answers that they find it to play an average role.

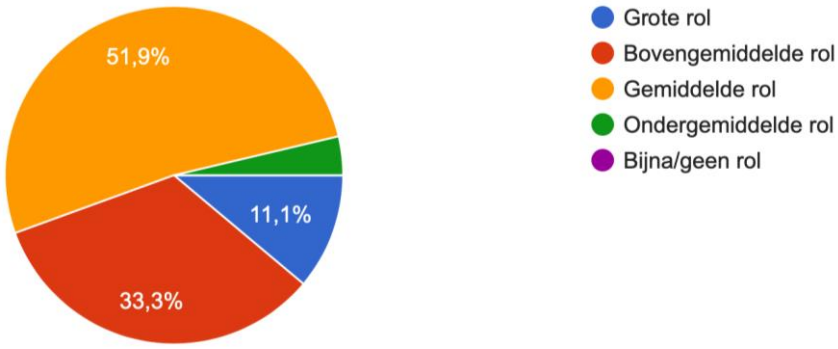

Figure 8: Role of Dutch values to people (Survey, 2022)

Values and beliefs seem to be highly important to people within Dutch cities. 44% of the respondents thinks that Dutch values and beliefs are key within society. From the interviews it is seen that beliefs regarding respect, caring and safety are looked upon as important Dutch values.

"Caring for the fellow humans and honest distribution of goods." (Survey, 2022)

"Being reasonable and treating each other with respect." (Survey, 2022)

When being asked what people understand under the concept of society, many use concepts and terms such as cultural diversity, freedom, and equality. Many respondents of the interview state that society is a concept best described by a place where people live together, a place where people from different backgrounds live beside each other and where they respect each other.

Dutch society is mostly described as a society where people with a lot of different cultural and ethnical backgrounds live. Respondents from the survey and interviews believe that Dutch people are phlegmatic.

"A group of people living together by certain values and rules for behavior." (Survey, 2022)

"A society based on democracy, where people live in freedom and equality … where people respect each other despite their background." (Respondent 2: Interview, 2022)

Research of Klarenbeek (2021) describes that a society consists of a number of social relations that can work in different ways. Social relations are also keen to respondents from the survey and interviews; they find that social relations shape their life and their opinions on different matters.

"Inside my building I'm seeking people to connect with, it is important for me to build up social relations with people within my living area." (Respondent 6: Interview, 2022)

And thus, it can be concluded that findings regarding social relations are key to people when looking at their conception of society.

4.2 Perception of immigrants and society by local communities

Respondents from the survey and interviews don't differ much in their opinions regarding immigrants. They look slightly different to European migrants and non-European migrants. When being asked about European immigrants for example, opinions vary. Some think these immigrants are welcome in the Netherlands, others think it is not that simple. Respondents of the survey think however, that European migrants can integrate easier than non-European migrants due to cultural barriers.

"European migrants are adding something to the Dutch economy and society." (Survey, 2022)

Dutch citizens are mostly positive towards immigrants that move towards the Netherlands. But opinions vary. Some respondents state in their answer that the Netherlands is a small country with a lot of problems of their own. They think immigrants will add economic and cultural value to society, but that they also will enlarge the already existing problems around housing, jobs, and salaries.

Some respondents for example state about immigrants:

"They ensure cultural diversification, which is good. But on the other side it leads to more pressure on the housing market." (Survey, 2022)

"We're a small country and our capacity has been reached. We can't have any more people because our people are being let down." (Respondent 6: Interview, 2022)

Adding value to society seems to be important to a high number of respondents. They state that adding value in the form of economic terms is not the only way. A lot of respondents from the interviews seem to think that social value is just as important, which matches with answers given by respondents when being asked about the importance of societal relations in a society.

"When someone immigrates towards the Netherlands, that person should add value to the society. This can be in the form of economic value or social value." (Survey, 2022)

As showed before, a reoccurring theme within the interviews and survey is that respondents believe the Netherlands to be an overpopulated country. While some believe we should allow all different forms of migrants to settle here, others believe it is not that straightforward. What is important for a lot of people is that the Dutch culture with their

values and beliefs is kept safe. Respondents for instance state, just as when being asked about Dutch society, that Dutch values and beliefs or rules are important for immigrants:

"The Netherlands is a free country and very divers … But I belief that when people come here, they should adjust to some Dutch values and beliefs" (Respondent 3: Interview, 2022)

"When people come somewhere, they should adjust to the existing values and beliefs of a culture." (Survey, 2022)

It is easier for respondents when immigrants are from areas where they are being forced to migrate:

"My opinion is that these people need to be taken care of. These people have valued reasons to come here (due to war) … when these people come to stay here permanently, they have to fully integrate into Dutch society and find work." (Respondent 1: Interview, 2022)

"As long as they come out of areas where there is a war, they are welcome. The Netherlands is otherwise too small a country." (Survey, 2022)

Others seem to think that people migrating for all sort of different reasons should be able to settle in the Netherlands. They think that openness and kindness is one of the Dutch values and that we should enable ourselves to contemplate these values. One respondent even states that maybe labor migrants are more focused on integrating into society than migrants forced to settle due to war.

4.3 Immigrant integration and local communities

Almost all respondents of the interviews and survey find that integration is something related to either government's policy or immigrant's own efforts to fit into society. A lot of respondents from the interviews believe that local communities do have an effect on the integration process for immigrants. But the respondents very often state that the government should design such a policy where all aspects of integration is discussed. The respondents don't seem to see a very pressing role for themselves on immigrant integration as they are part of the local community.

As described earlier on, integration into Dutch society is believed to be important and Dutch values seem to be key to local residents when looking at immigrant integration. Some people believe it is important for immigrants to learn the Dutch language. Integration into Dutch society is according to them accompanied by speaking or learning

the Dutch language. The Dutch government has for example, implemented tests in order for migrants to fully integrate into Dutch society and obtain the Dutch citizenship. One test is the exam for Dutch literacy (Kurvers & Spotti, 2015). Ability in the Dutch language is considered as one of the most important features regarding Dutch integration (Kurvers & Spotti, 2015). Most respondents state that their opinion on the matter, to somewhat extent, depends on the government's policy and choices.

Answers by respondents of the interview state that speaking the Dutch language will lead to a better economic position, a number of societal relationships and eventually to a better integration into society. The answers from respondents of the survey reflect that they also believe the same.

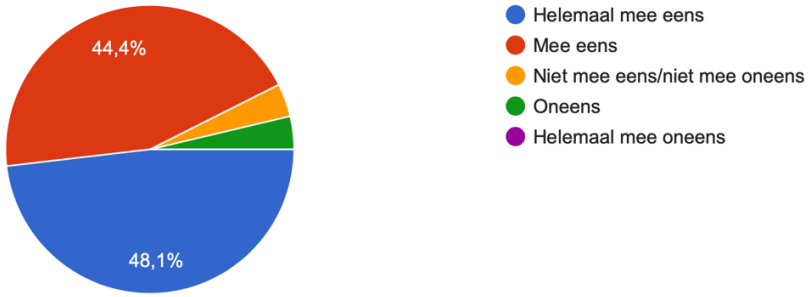

Figure 9: Whether immigrants should learn the Dutch language (Survey, 2022)

Almost every respondent believes that immigrants will add a positive stimulus to the Dutch economy. With the great shortage of workers, respondents believe immigrants will fill up those 'empty spots' and tribute to the Dutch economy. Respondents state that:

"When fully integrated, mastered the Dutch language and given an opportunity to work here, they can contribute to the Dutch economy." (Survey, 2022)

Interesting is that often respondents also think that integration into society comes before contributing to the Dutch economy. Social factors play therefore a high role. While the Dutch government has updated their integration policies, it is lacking certain reoccurring themes. Respondents from the survey and the interviews find that the Dutch government should consider not only the Dutch language, but also the social networks that are key to integrate into a neighborhood.

The existing body of literature describes that it is the social relations and networks that ensure that immigrants are accepted and integrate into certain places. From the literature it can also be concluded that social relations with locals are deemed as more important than firstly obtaining citizenship. What is contradicting, however, is that respondents find

that immigrants should be integrated into Dutch society by first learning the language and understanding the (local) values and beliefs.
When being asked about the Dutch culture and the impact of immigrants, almost every respondent believes that immigrants enrich our understanding of culture. They state that segregation is the result of difficult integration policies. They state that:

"The Netherlands is some kind of melting pot of different kinds of cultures. On the long term, it is highly likeable to assume that the culture in a local community can be adjusted." (Respondent 3: Interview, 2022)

"In general, our culture is being enriched … It is important that this process of integration is steered in a proper way by the Dutch government." (Survey, 2022)

When being asked whether local non-immigrants are in a way responsible for the immigrant integration or have an effect on immigrant integration, most respondents answer that they believe it is important for locals to be open-minded and to accept immigrants into society, but that non-immigrants and local communities are not responsible. Some respondents of the interview do state that they believe integration is a two-way process.

"I do think that as an immigrant you will benefit a lot from someone who lives here, just a few people who try to help you integrate into society." (Respondent 7: Interview, 2022)

Most answers also show that local non-immigrants believe the Dutch government should regulate this nationally through a policy that includes local communities and their residents.

"Well, I guess now that I think about it, they (Dutch government) need to be a little sharper. So that the process is less open to interpretation. Because it is causing a lot of unrest at the moment. It's too spacious." (Respondent 2: Interview, 2022)

All in all, it can be concluded from the results that most respondents of the interviews and the survey find that immigrants are first to learn Dutch values, beliefs, and the language before fully integrating into society. Respondents do, however, find that local non-immigrants and local communities have an effect on immigrant integration. They can make it easier or more difficult for immigrants to integrate. But, unlike the existing literature states, non-immigrants in local communities believe it is the task for the Dutch government to demarcate the integration policy. Local communities have to be, according to the respondents, open-minded and helpful. But non-immigrants and local communities are according to the respondents not responsible for immigrant integration.

5. Discussion and conclusion

Based on theoretical research contemplated in the literature review, this research has investigated a number of local residents regarding the integration of immigrants. People without migration have the power to either include or exclude immigrants within their local community. Their position is therefore key in immigrants integration.
The research therefore focused on people without a migration background within Dutch cities. As few research has been done on the impact that non-immigrant residents have on the social climate in local communities. The fact that non-immigrants generally take on more powerful positions in society than immigrants do, makes the non-immigrants more likely to be able to affect the course of social change and we should look at integration as a two-way process (Klarenbeek, 2021). The receiving society can influence the process of immigrant integration.
Based on the existing literature key drivers for social change were identified: *conception of society and social relations*.

The concept of (local) community is one that referred to significant social relations (Ager & Strang, 2008). Social relations are the foundation for the formation of social networks. Social networks are viewed as a field of social interaction that has neither unit nor boundaries; they give an individual the sense of belonging (Piselli, 2007). As the results from the survey in this research showed, around 59% of the respondents find that social networks and relationships play a big or upper-mediate role in their daily lives. Most respondents from the interviews find that social relations are more important in a local community than in a city as a whole:

"The fact is that people tolerate each other more in the same local community or neighborhood … because in a neighborhood people need to help each other." (Respondent 2: Interview, 2022)

The conception of society implies that of how non-immigrants perceive society. Even today, society is constantly changing and evolving. In the existing literature the concept of society is characterized by several elements. First, society is a type of social action; second, society operates through a sphere of connections and thirdly, society remains subject to change (Kocka, 2004). Within the cultural and societal domain, non-immigrants define values and beliefs due to their different position towards immigrants. Answers from respondents of the survey and interviews show that Dutch society is characterized by values such as respect, caring and safety. They believe that cultural diversity is more important nowadays and that is one of the key features for Dutch society. Integration into society is key for immigrants staying for a longer period of time.

Existing literature shows that integration includes whether an individual is thought the norms, values, beliefs, and practices of that entity. Research on existing literature showed that there are several key elements of 'successful integration' (Ager & Strang, 2008) (Appendix, figure 2). Foundation and facilitators such as rights & citizenship and language & cultural knowledge are the first steps towards successful immigrant integration. The results of the interviews and survey show that non-immigrants find it highly important that immigrants respect Dutch values, culture and to some extent their traditions. The results also show that non-immigrants find it important that immigrants are able or try to learn the Dutch language. They believe it shows that immigrants are willing to make an effort to fit in. And when they are not able to speak Dutch, it makes it harder for non-immigrants to build a social relationship with them.

The results of the research show that respondents believe it is important that immigrants are first to learn these Dutch values, beliefs, and the language before fully integrating into society. Unlike the existing literature, non-immigrants in local communities believe it is the task for the Dutch government to demarcate the integration policy. Local communities have to be, according to the respondents, open-minded and helpful. But non-immigrants and local communities are according to the respondents not responsible for immigrant integration.

This is also shown in the next step on integration, namely social connection. Social networks and relations are key to integrate into society. Results of the research showed that respondents think that integration into society on a social and cultural level comes before contributing to the Dutch economy but after obtaining citizenship. Respondents from the survey and interviews find that the Dutch government and local governments should not only consider the Dutch language to be a requirement in their policy, but also certain cultural features of local communities. When being asked about the Dutch culture and the impact of immigrants, almost every respondent beliefs that immigrants enrich our understanding of culture. Thus, cultural diversity is looked at, not as a problem but a blessing in Dutch society.

The last step in immigrant integration is that of markers and means. This shows the economic features, such as employment and housing. This step of integration is a one most open for discussion as is showed by the literature body. Because whether one feels at home at a place, is dependent on their social relations and/or power, which is often linked to their economic power (Kocka, 2004). And immigrants can transform job- and housing markets, school systems, and the diversity of communities (Sharp, 2022). The research showed that Dutch citizens are mostly positive towards immigrants that move towards the Netherlands. But opinions vary. Some respondents state in their answer that

the Netherlands is a small country with a lot of problems of their own. They think immigrants will add economic and cultural value to society, but that they also will enlarge the already existing problems around housing, jobs, and salaries. Adding value to society seems to be important to a high number of non-immigrants. They state that adding value in the form of economic terms is not the only way. A lot of non-immigrants seem to think that social value is just as important.

"They ensure cultural diversification, which is good. But on the other side it leads to more pressure on the housing market." (Respondent 5: Interview, 2022)

The results of the research show that a lot of non-immigrants believe that integration is not only a one-way process. But that immigrants are responsible for their own integration into society, while local communities and -residents play their own part in the integration of immigrants. Accepting immigrants and building up social relationships with them could make it easier for immigrants to fully integrate. But learning the language and local culture, are steps that immigrants have to complete before integrating into society and a local community. Opinions on this matter vary, but most local non-immigrants believe immigrants should learn these values by opportunities facilitated by the Dutch government. Non-immigrants within local communities believe they do have an influence on immigrant integration, only not as big as expected.

In conclusion, this research, as it is said above, shows that non-immigrants are not the only key characters regarding immigrant integration. Immigrant integration depends on a number of factors, institutions, and people. However, this research shows that integration is indeed a two-way process. It shows that local communities do play a part in immigrant integration. But the answer to the question: *How do local communities shape the integration process of immigrants?* is one that deviates from the expectation. Namely, local communities have an influence on immigrant integration, but only in a small way. Non-immigrants state that they aren't that involved in immigrant integration and that immigrants are more likely to integrate into society when they have tried to learn or have learned the Dutch language, values, and beliefs. Non-immigrants do, however, shape the process of establishing social relations for immigrants. Thus, local communities do shape immigrant integration. The research shows that the Dutch government and its policy is seen as leading, according to non-immigrants within local communities.

This research also shows that there is indeed a knowledge gap, namely a bottom-up approach regarding immigrant integration and the role local communities take. Local communities and their residents do shape the integration of immigrants and they are therefore one of the key players in immigrant integration. In the future, further research is

needed to what extent local communities can play a part besides already existing institutions regarding immigrant integration. A more quantitative research approach on this subject can enlighten us with the problems regarding immigrant integration and the receiving society. But, as it remains a social and cultural loaded subject, qualitative research continues to be of vital importance. Thus, in the future more experiences and more subjective opinions regarding the topic should be investigated.

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Appendices

Survey bachelors thesis

Informatie over het onderzoek: Integratie van immigranten in lokale buurten en wijken in Nederlandse steden

Inleiding

Ik vraag u doormeet van deze enquête om mee te doen aan een wetenschappelijk onderzoek voor mijn bachelor scriptie Geografie, Planologie en Milieu aan de Radboud Universiteit te Nijmegen. Om mee te doen is uw toestemming nodig. Voordat u beslist of u mee wilt doen aan het onderzoek, krijgt u enkele uitleg over wat dit onderzoek inhoudt.

Beschrijving en doel van het onderzoek

Vandaag de dag is het concept van samenleving hevig aan het veranderen en evolueren. Een van de redenen hiervoor is de toename in migratie dynamieken. Steeds meer mensen vestigen zich ergens anders dan op de plek waar zij geboren zijn. Desondanks blijft het concept voornamelijk in het kader van een natiestaat. De natiestaat beschrijft een aangewezen gebied geconcentreerd met mensen verenigd onder één culturele identiteit. Het concept van integratie speelt daarom ook een toenemend belangrijke rol. Dit onderzoek probeert doormiddel van kleinschaliger onderzoek in de vorm van lokale buurten en wijken, te onderzoeken hoe deze het integratieproces van immigranten vormgeven.

Wat wordt er van u verwacht?

In dit onderzoek gaat u enkele vragen beantwoorden die te maken hebben met concepten betreffende samenleving, migratie en integratie. U zult ook vragen krijgen over uw ethische, culturele/sociale en academische achtergrond. Daarnaast kunt u ook enkele algemene vragen verwachten, zoals uw geslacht en leeftijd. Het invullen van deze vragenlijst zal ongeveer vijf minuten duren.

Vrijwilligheid

U doet vrijwillig mee aan dit onderzoek. Daarom kunt u op elk moment tijdens het onderzoek uw deelname stopzetten en uw toestemming intrekken. U hoeft niet aan te geven waarom u stopt. Afzien van of stoppen met deelname heeft dan ook geen nadelige gevolgen voor u in enkele zin. U kunt tot twee weken na deelname ook uw onderzoeksgegevens en persoonsgegevens laten verwijderen. Dit kunt u doen door een mail te sturen naar teije.vanmourik@student.ru.nl

Wat gebeurt er met mijn gegevens?

De onderzoeksgegevens die verzameld worden, zullen alleen gebruikt worden voor academische doeleinden. Deze gegevens zullen volledig anoniem worden gepresenteerd in de resultaten van dit onderzoek. De persoonsgegevens worden op beveiligde wijze volgens de richtlijnen van de Radboud Universiteit gewaarborgd.

Vragen over het onderzoek?

Wanneer u vragen over het onderzoek heeft of meer informatie over het onderzoek wilt hebben, **kunt u contact opnemen via** teije.vanmourik@student.ru.nl

Toestemmingsverklaring

Door op ‘volgende’ te klikken geeft u aan dat u minimaal achttien jaar oud bent, de bovenstaande informatie goed heeft doorgelezen en dat u instemt met deelname aan het onderzoek. U geeft hierbij toestemming uw gegevens die gevraagd worden in deze vragenlijst te verzamelen en te gebruiken binnen dit onderzoek.

Alvast bedankt voor uw deelname en vriendelijke groet,

Teije van Mourik
teije.vanmourik@student.ru.nl

Vragenlijst

Algemene informatie

Vraag 1: Wat is uw geslacht?

a) Man

b) Vrouw

c) Anders

Vraag 2: Wat is uw leeftijd?

Vraag 3: Wat voor opleiding heeft u genoten of welke opleiding volgt u momenteel?

a) Wetenschappelijk onderwijs (universiteit)

b) Hoger beroepsonderwijs (hbo)

c) Middelbaar beroepsonderwijs (mbo)

d) Voortgezet onderwijs (middelbare school)

e) Anders

Vraag 4: Bent u momenteel werkende?

a) Ja

b) Nee

Vraag 5: In wat voor huishouden woont u?

a) Alleenstaand

b) Met partner

c) Met partner en kinderen

d) Met huisgenoten

e) Anders

Vraag 6: Op welke partij heeft u gestemd afgelopen (nationale) verkiezingen?

Vragen omtrent samenleving

Vraag 7: Wat voor rol spelen sociale netwerken en relaties in uw dagelijkse leven?

a) Grote rol

b) Bovengemiddelde rol

c) Gemiddelde rol

d) Onder gemiddelde rol

e) Bijna/geen rol

Vraag 8: Wat voor rol spelen economische factoren in uw dagelijkse leven?

a) Grote rol
b) Bovengemiddelde rol
c) Gemiddelde rol
d) Onder gemiddelde rol
e) Bijna/geen rol

Vraag 9: Wat voor rol spelen (de Nederlandse) normen en waarden in uw dagelijkse leven?

a) Grote rol
b) Bovengemiddelde rol
c) Gemiddelde rol
d) Onder gemiddelde rol
e) Bijna/geen rol

Vraag 10: Wat is volgens u de beste definitie van (de Nederlandse) samenleving? [Antwoord in ongeveer 3 zinnen]

Vragen omtrent migratie en integratie

Vraag 11: Wat is uw mening over de achtergrond van Europese immigranten? (Mensen van binnen de Europese Unie)

Vraag 12: Wat is uw mening over de achtergrond van niet-Europese immigranten? (Mensen van buiten de Europese Unie)

Vraag 13: Bent u van mening dat immigranten die zich hier vestigen een positieve bijdrage leveren aan de Nederlandse economie of juist niet?

Vraag 14: Is het in het algemeen goed of slecht voor het Nederlandse zorgsysteem (sociale bijstand en zekerheid) dat mensen van andere landen zich hier vestigen?

Vraag 15: Wordt de Nederlandse cultuur bedreigd of juist verrijkt door immigranten die zich hier vestigen?

Vraag 16: Stelling: Nederlandse onderwijsinstellingen zouden meer aandacht moeten schenken aan diversiteit en cultureel-etnische achtergronden…

a) Helemaal mee eens
b) Mee eens
c) Niet mee eens en niet mee oneens
d) Oneens
e) Helemaal mee oneens

Vraag 17: Stelling: Nederlandse burgers zouden meer aandacht moeten schenken aan diversiteit en cultureel-etnische achtergronden…

a) Helemaal mee eens
b) Mee eens
c) Niet mee eens en niet mee oneens
d) Oneens
e) Helemaal mee oneens

Vraag 18: Stelling: Immigranten zouden zo snel mogelijk de Nederlandse taal moeten beheersen…

a) Helemaal mee eens
b) Mee eens
c) Niet mee eens en niet mee oneens
d) Oneens
e) Helemaal mee oneens

Vraag 19: Stelling: Immigranten zouden zo snel mogelijk contact moeten zoeken bij hun buurtbewoners…

a) Helemaal mee eens
b) Mee eens
c) Niet mee eens en niet mee oneens
d) Oneens
e) Helemaal mee oneens

Vraag 20: Stelling: Immigranten hebben minder recht op sociale bijstand en zekerheid dan mensen geboren in Nederland…

a) Helemaal mee eens
b) Mee eens
c) Niet mee eens en niet mee oneens
d) Oneens
e) Helemaal mee oneens

Vraag 21: In hoeverre zijn lokale inwoners verantwoordelijk voor het gemakkelijk integreren van immigranten?

Eindwoord

Dank u voor het deelnemen aan het onderzoek. Voor verdere vragen of informatie over het onderzoek mail naar: teije.vanmourik@student.ru.nl. Zoals eerder vermeld, zullen al uw antwoorden anoniem blijven en zullen de gegevens alleen gebruikt worden voor dit onderzoek en haar academische doeleinden.

Interview guide bachelors thesis

Dutch non-immigrants answering questions regarding immigrant integration

Interviewer: Teije van Mourik, s1025064

Legend	Questions	Estimated Time
Beleefdheden	*Korte introductie op het onderzoek (alle respondenten zijn met aanvullende informatie van tevoren geïnformeerd):* **Ik voer een onderzoek uit naar de mate waarin lokale inwoners of lokale buurten het integratieproces van immigranten vormgeven. Ik zou graag wat vragen willen stellen over uw sociaal-politieke achtergrond, ervaringen en meningen.** *De respondenten het toestemmingsformulier overhandigen.* **Neemt u alstublieft de tijd om het formulier door te nemen. Als u wilt, kunnen uw gegevens anoniem blijven in dit onderzoek.** *Respondent geeft voorkeur aan op het formulier.* **Wanneer er vragen zijn die u niet wilt beantwoorden, mag dat altijd tijdens het interview. Wanneer u het interview wilt stoppen, mag dat altijd tijdens het interview.** **Vindt u het goed als dit interview wordt opgenomen?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Het interview zal ongeveer 20-30 minuten duren. Is dat voor u oké?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Dan zou ik graag beginnen met het interview.**	5 minuten
Introductie van het onderzoek	**Zoals u weet van mijn eerdere benadering, ben ik een student aan de Radboud Universiteit te Nijmegen. Ik doe onderzoek naar het integratieproces van immigranten in Nederlandse steden. Vandaar dat de vragen die in dit interview gesteld worden daarover gaan.** **De data in dit onderzoek wordt alleen verzameld en gebruikt voor dit onderzoek en voor niks**	2/3 minuten

	anders. *Respondent leest dit ook in het toestemmingsformulier.* **Ik zou u ook graag willen verzoeken dat u de vragen zo open mogelijk beantwoordt. Heeft u voor de rest nog vragen over het onderzoek?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.*	
Onderwerp 1: achtergrond van de respondent	*Naam, leeftijd, werkend/niet-werkend (studerend), samenstelling huishouden, woonplaats, etnische achtergrond.* **Kunt u vertellen wat uw naam en leeftijd is? (*Vragen over achtergrond respondent stellen om het interview in te leiden*).** **Kunt u mij vertellen op welke partij u gestemd heeft afgelopen verkiezingen?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Kunt u mij vertellen waarom u op deze partij heeft gestemd?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Waarom zijn de opvattingen of normen/waarden van deze politieke partij belangrijk voor u?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.*	5/6 minuten
Onderwerp 2: samenleving en sociale relaties	**Wat verstaat u onder een samenleving?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Hoe denkt u dat de Nederlandse samenleving zich kenmerkt?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **In hoeverre herkent u de opvattingen die u net heeft beschreven over de Nederlandse samenleving terug in uw woonwijk of buurt?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Waar denkt u aan als ik het begrip sociale relaties naar voren breng?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **In hoeverre vindt u (goed) contact met uw buren en mede buurtbewoners belangrijk?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Zijn sociale relaties belangrijk in het onderhouden van contact met uw medebuurtbewoners of kennissen die ook in deze stad wonen?** *Antwoord*	10 minuten

	respondent ja/nee. **En waarom is dat het geval voor u?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.*	
Onderwerp 3: immigranten en integratie	**Wat is uw mening over migratie van personen richting Nederland?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **In hoeverre vindt u dat migranten die zich hier willen vestigen, open ontvangen moeten worden?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* De Nederlandse overheid stelt dat integratie het volgende betekent: “Mensen die naar Nederland verhuizen voor een langere periode moeten kunnen deelnemen aan de Nederlandse samenleving.” **Bent u het eens met deze definiëring?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Waarom is dat?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Bent u van mening dat de Nederlandse overheid een goed beleid hanteert wat betreft de opvang van immigranten?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Waarom is dat?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Wanneer u kijkt naar de bijdrage die immigranten leveren aan de Nederlandse samenleving als geheel, in hoeverre vindt u dat zij een positieve of negatieve bijdrage leveren?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Vindt u het belangrijk dat immigranten de Nederlandse taal zo snel mogelijk beheersen?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **In hoeverre denkt u dat immigranten een lokale buurt kunnen veranderen?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **In hoeverre vindt u het dan belangrijk dat immigranten zo snel mogelijk contact maken of zoeken met lokale buurtbewoners?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Bent u van mening dat lokale inwoners of buurtbewoners een verantwoordelijkheid hebben om het integratieproces van immigranten te**	15 minuten

	versoepelen? *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Waarom is dat?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.*	
Inleiding einde interview	**Dank u voor het beantwoorden van al mijn vragen. Heeft u zelf nog vragen of opmerkingen over dit onderzoek of over het onderwerp?** *Antwoord respondent ja/nee.* **Dan dank ik u hartelijk voor uw tijd. Nogmaals, de resultaten van dit interview worden alleen gebruikt voor onderzoeksdoeleinden. Wilt u nog op de hoogte gehouden worden over de conclusies en resultaten van dit onderzoek, dat kan. Mijn mail is: teijevanmourik@student.ru.nl en bij aanvraag kan ik u de antwoorden opsturen.** **Hartelijk dank.**	2/3 minuten

Figures

Onderwerp			Perioden				
Migratieachtergrond			2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1e en 2e generatie migratieachtergrond	Met migratieachtergrond	aantal	3 971 859	4 086 138	4 220 705	4 305 908	4 438 900
	Westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	1 729 016	1 774 271	1 828 645	1 858 730	1 909 408
	Niet-westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	2 242 843	2 311 867	2 392 060	2 447 178	2 529 492
1e generatie migratieachtergrond	Met migratieachtergrond	aantal	2 079 329	2 161 684	2 262 256	2 312 921	2 412 344
	Westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	836 178	876 946	925 952	951 072	996 928
	Niet-westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	1 243 151	1 284 738	1 336 304	1 361 849	1 415 416
2e generatie migratieachtergrond	Met migratieachtergrond	aantal	1 892 530	1 924 454	1 958 449	1 992 987	2 026 556
	Westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	892 838	897 325	902 693	907 658	912 480
	Niet-westerse migratieachtergrond	aantal	999 692	1 027 129	1 055 756	1 085 329	1 114 076

Bron: CBS

Figure: Inhabitants of the Netherlands with a migration background.

Source: CBS, 2022.

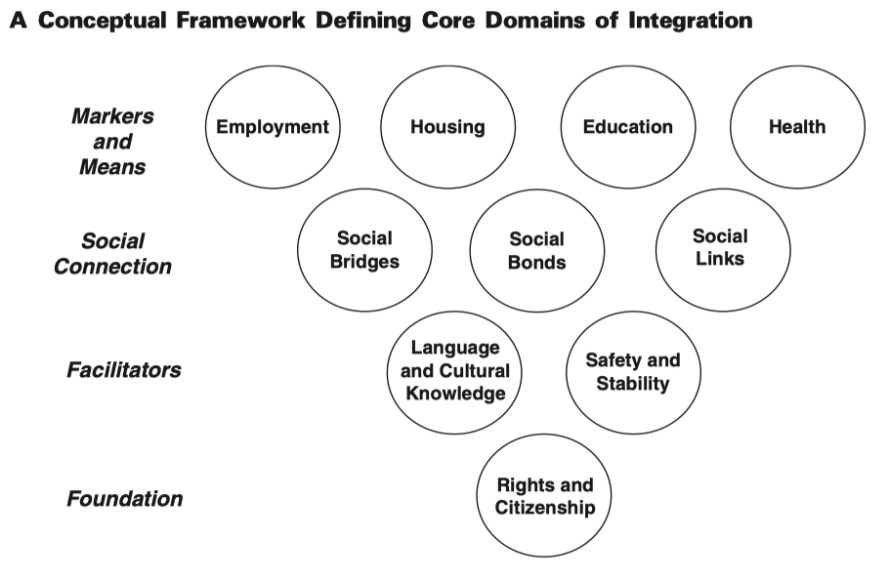

Figure: Key elements of integration (Ager & Strang, 2008).

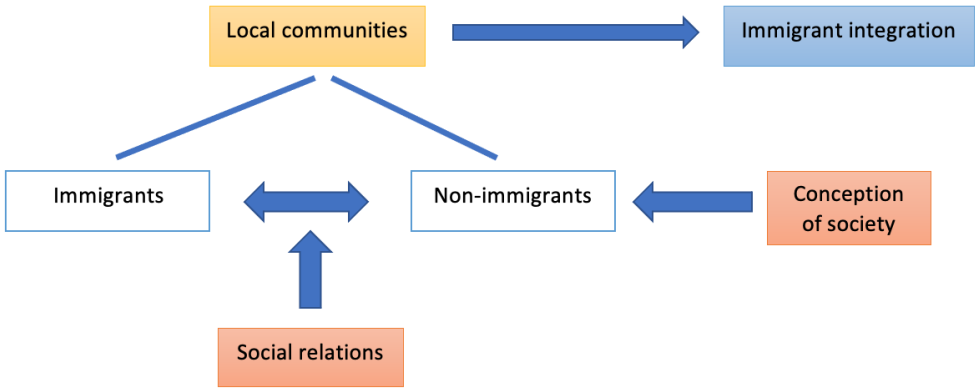

Figure: Conceptual framework (Van Mourik, 2022).

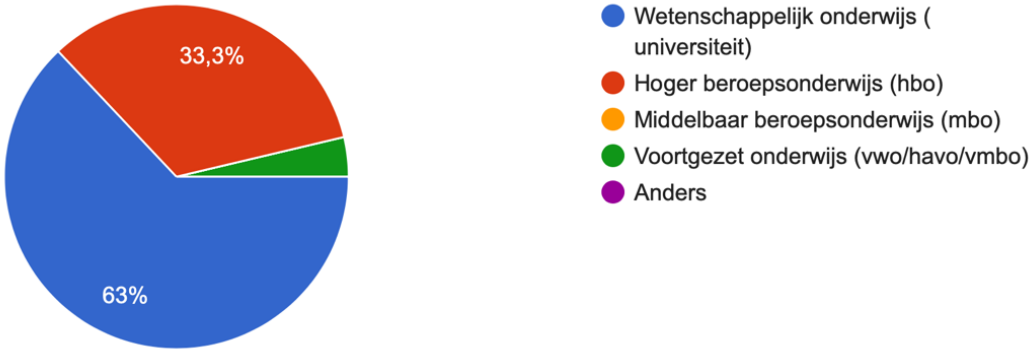

Figure: Educational background (Survey, 2022)

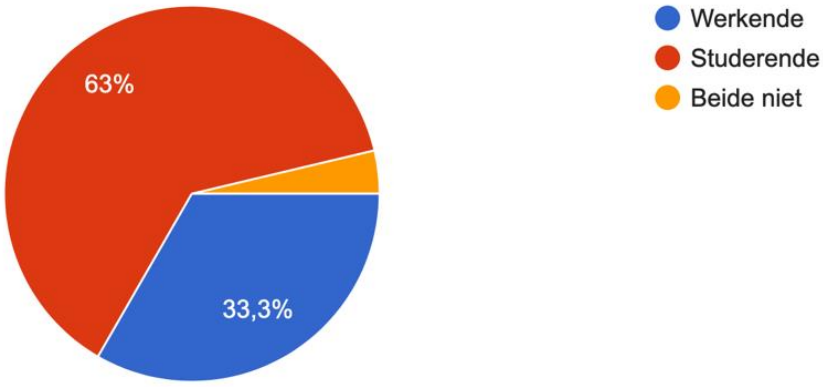

Figure: Employment status (Survey, 2022)

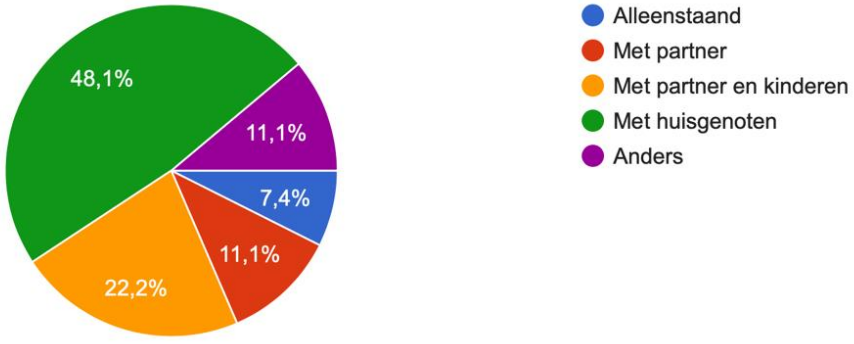

Figure: Household status (Survey, 2022)

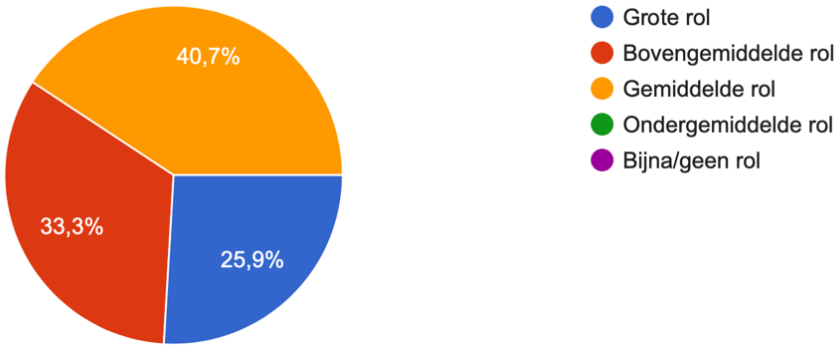

Figure: Role of social relations in people's daily life (Survey, 2022)

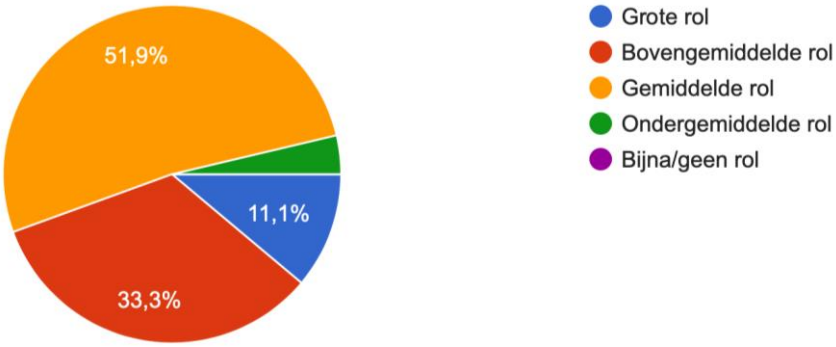

Figure: Role of Dutch values to people (Survey, 2022)

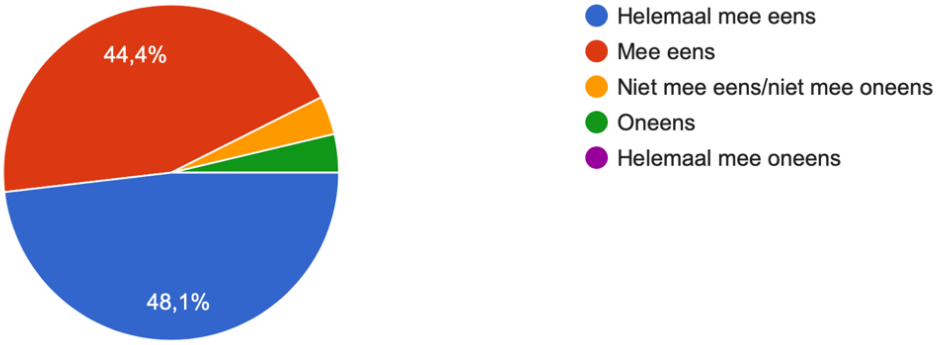

Figure: Whether immigrants should learn the Dutch language (Survey, 2022)