

Summary of main findings and conclusions

The Integration Barometer measures people's attitudes to immigration, integration and diversity. It is carried out as a survey of a representative sample of Norway's population. The barometer survey was carried out for the first time in 2005 and this year's survey is the seventh of its kind. In 2013–2014, the survey was also conducted among separate samples of people from immigrant backgrounds in addition to the representative population sample. The results from the immigrant samples are published separately once the analyses are completed.

This report provides an overview of the most important findings in the general population sample. The report presents the distribution of responses to the individual questions and compares them with the results from previous years where relevant.

The results show that attitudes to immigration, integration and diversity have largely remained stable in the period 2005–2013. The proportion with a restrictive attitude to immigration increased somewhat from 2005 to 2009, and then declined slightly.

As in the past, we see that the population's attitudes are complex: The majority have a positive attitude to living in a multicultural society and agree that immigrants living in Norway should have the same rights as the rest of the population. Around half the population have a restrictive attitude to immigration, while the vast majority are sceptical about how well integration is working.

The main points from the report's individual chapters are presented below.

Attitudes to immigration, integration and diversity

- The population is divided on the question of immigration volume. Half the population agree or partly agree with the statement 'We should not let more immigrants into Norway', while the other half are more positive. The general dichotomy in attitudes to the immigration volume is the same now as in 2005, but we see a gradual reduction (from 16 to 11 per cent) in the proportion that express the most positive attitude to immigration (answer 'doesn't match at all' to the statement that we should not let more immigrants into Norway). Fifty-five per cent agree or partly agree that Norway should accept more refugees who need protection, 64 per cent believe that it should be easier for refugees living in Norway to be reunited with their families, and 78 per cent believe that people who are offered permanent employment should be allowed to come here to work regardless of which country they are from. Sixty-three per cent agree or partly agree that not enough emphasis is placed on children's best interests when asylum applications for families with children are considered.
- Those who are more positive to the immigration volume in general are also the most positive to labour immigration and immigration for humanitarian reasons. However, even among the respondents who are most negative to the immigration volume, more than half believe that labour immigrants who are offered employment should be allowed to come here regardless of which country they are from.

- Four out of ten agree or partly agree that their own municipality should settle more refugees. A corresponding proportion state that they would be positive to a reception centre being established in the area where they live.
- There is widespread scepticism about how well the integration of immigrants in Norway is working overall. This scepticism is highest among respondents who have a restrictive attitude to the immigration volume. However, even those who have the most positive attitude to immigration are sceptical about how well the integration of immigrants is working overall.
- Eight out of ten believe that it is good for Norway that people from different cultures interact with each other, and three out of four believe that it is entirely possible to share fundamental values despite having different religious affiliations. Six out of ten believe that immigrants can fit into Norwegian society while retaining their own traditions
- There is broad agreement that immigrants with permanent residence should have the same rights as the rest of the population.
- Six out of ten believe that 'the relationship between immigrants and the rest of the population will improve'.
- For the most part, there is little connection between the background variables and the attitudes investigated in this chapter. The views expressed cut across gender, age and place of residence, whereas educational level plays a certain role. People with a university college / university education have the most positive attitude to the immigration volume and how well integration is working, but the differences are not great. Party preference, on the other hand, has a clear influence, in that people who would vote for parties to the left in the political landscape have the most positive attitude to the immigration volume and the integration process.
- All in all, people's attitudes to immigration and integration have not changed significantly since 2005. The proportion with a restrictive attitude to immigration increased somewhat from 2005 to 2009, and then declined slightly.

Actors in the integration field

- The population places responsibility for the successful integration of immigrants with the immigrants themselves, but also with the rest of the population and the authorities. Five out of ten believe that integration problems can be due to immigrants being subjected to discrimination in Norway, but only five per cent believe this 'to a great extent'.
- Eight out of ten agree or partly agree that 'the immigrants themselves have the main responsibility for integrating into society'. This figure has remained very stable in the period 2008–2013.
- The factors that are most frequently emphasised as important aspects of being well integrated in Norway are being able to support oneself and one's family through work (71 per cent), having good Norwegian language skills (70 per cent), and sharing the fundamental values of Norwegian society (53 per cent). Since 2008, there has been a decrease in the

proportion who believe good Norwegian language skills are among the most important criteria for integration (from 85 to 70 per cent). At the same time, there has been a gradual increase during the period in the proportion of respondents who emphasise the sharing of fundamental values. This increase is especially marked in this year's barometer, but we cannot know whether this change is due to the fact that the wording of this response category was changed this year.

- Nine out of ten agree or partly agree that it should be mandatory to pass a Norwegian language test to become a Norwegian citizen.
- Eight out of ten believe that it should be mandatory to pass a test that shows that you have knowledge of Norwegian society in order to become a Norwegian citizen (answer 'complete match' or 'quite good match').
- Willingness to react to racism and ethnic discrimination varies with the type of reaction/action asked about. People are most willing to react in social media or social contexts (six/seven out of ten answer 'maybe' or 'absolutely'), and least willing to become a member of an organisation working to combat racism or to participate in a demonstration (four out of ten).

Arenas for contact and integration

- The majority of the population are in contact with people from immigrant backgrounds in one or more arenas.
- Among pupils/students, only one out of ten have no fellow pupils/students from an immigrant background. Of the proportion who work, a quarter have no colleagues from immigrant backgrounds. Almost nine out of ten are in contact with people from immigrant backgrounds in their neighbourhood, and eight out of ten are friends/acquaintances with people from immigrant backgrounds
- Nine out of ten would be positive or neutral if their child wished to marry a Christian. Fifty-six per cent are positive/neutral to the prospect of having a potential son/daughter-in-law of the Jewish faith. As regards a son/daughter-in-law of the Hindu or Buddhist faith, 45 and 53 per cent, respectively, are positive/neutral to this. The population is most negative to their child marrying someone of the Muslim faith. Twenty-six per cent are positive/neutral to this, while 57 per cent state that they would take a negative view.
- Fifty-five per cent of the population agree or partly agree with the statement 'It would be difficult for me to live in an area where the majority have immigrant backgrounds'.
- Attitudes to choosing a school for one's own children are complex. The school's results seem to be of greater importance than whether the majority of the pupils are from immigrant backgrounds. Fifty-six per cent answer 'complete match' or 'quite good match' to the statement that they would not choose a school for their children where a majority of the pupils were from immigrant backgrounds. At the same time, 69 per cent answer that 'if the school's results are good, the proportion of pupils who have immigrant backgrounds would not have any influence on the school I choose for my children'.
- More than eight out of ten agree or partly agree with the statement 'it is positive for children to go to school with pupils from different cultures'. The results here have been relatively stable during the period this question has been asked (2010–2013). More than eight out of

ten also believe, to a greater or lesser extent, that the Norwegian school system gives all children equally good opportunities for success later in life, regardless of ethnic origin.

- A majority of the population believe that workplaces should make efforts to have immigrants as employees and managers, while significantly fewer support moderate affirmative action in relation to immigrants in the labour market.
- Six out of ten believe that immigration is positive for the Norwegian economy.
- Seventy-five per cent agree or partly agree that labour immigrants who plan to stay in Norway should be offered free tuition in the Norwegian language. There has been a gradual decline in the proportion who think this since the question was first asked in 2008. Then, around 85 per cent supported this view, while around 10 percentage points fewer do so now.
- The population's opinions are divided over the portrayal of immigrants in Norwegian media. Only three out of ten believe that the portrayal of immigrants in Norwegian media is 'largely' balanced.

Values, religion and discrimination

- Eight out of ten state that democracy, freedom of speech, equality before the law and children's rights are 'very important' values. More than 70 per cent also support the values personal freedom and gender equality.
- Four out of ten believe that immigration is a threat to the Norwegian welfare state (answer 'complete match' or 'quite good match'). At the same time, more than half the population believe that most immigrants contribute to maintaining the Norwegian welfare state (answer 'complete match' or 'quite good match'). In 2008–2009, around half the respondents agreed or partly agreed with the statement that immigration is a threat to the Norwegian welfare state, whereas this figure had decreased somewhat in 2010. Since then, the proportion has fallen to around four out of ten. At the same time, there has been a gradual increase in the proportion of respondents who believe that immigration contributes to maintaining the Norwegian welfare state, from 47 per cent in 2010 to 54 per cent in this year's barometer.
- Almost four out of ten are generally sceptical of religious people. This is a decrease of around 10 percentage points compared with 2010 and 2012. Forty-seven per cent state that they are sceptical of people of the Muslim faith. Twenty-four per cent state that they are sceptical of people of the Jewish faith, 18 per cent state that they are sceptical of people of the Christian faith, while fewer than seven per cent are sceptical of non-religious people.
- Five out of ten believe that the values of Islam are completely or partly incompatible with the values of Norwegian society.
- More people are negative than positive to women wearing a hijab outside the home. The population is most negative to Muslim women wearing hijabs as uniformed police. Seventy-six per cent are 'quite negative' or 'very negative' to this. People are least negative to Muslim women wearing hijabs in the street. Thirty-five per cent of respondents are negative to this, whereas 46 per cent respond 'neither positive nor negative'.
- Eighty-six per cent are very negative or quite negative to the use of the niqab, religious headgear that covers the whole face.
- Almost 70 per cent of the population believe that discrimination of immigrants occurs to a certain or great extent.

