

Further results of the study “Integration and Religion as seen by People of Turkish Origin in German”

Representative survey by research agency TNS Emnid on behalf of the Münster University’s Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

Strong will to integrate

At 70 per cent, the will to integrate is very widespread among people of Turkish origin in Germany. Likewise, 87 per cent of respondents feel related to Germany, about just as many as feel related to Turkey (85 per cent). 44 per cent of respondents believe that they receive their fair share compared to how others live in Germany; 5 per cent are even convinced that they receive more than their fair share. Thus, they do not feel treated more unjustly than Germans do.

Asked what they consider prerequisites of good integration, 91 per cent mention the German language, 84 per cent observing the laws and 76 per cent good contact with Germans. They consider it less important to adopt the German culture (39 per cent), to adapt their clothing (33 per cent) or to seek German citizenship (32 per cent).

People of Turkish origin of the second and third generations attend mosques less often – but see themselves as more religious

The question as to how their own religious practice looks yields different pictures for the immigrant generations: of the second and third generations, less respondents attend a mosque every week than of the first generation (23 per cent vs 32 per cent), and they also less often engage in personal prayers several times a day (35 per cent vs 55 per cent). At the same time, however, respondents of the second and third generations see themselves as much more religious than those of the first generation (72 per cent vs 62 per cent). This possibly reflects rather a deliberate commitment to their cultural origin instead of lived religiousness.

Image of Islam is more positive than among the population as a whole – similar perception of Christianity

Regarding the image of Islam, people of Turkish origin and the majority population are fundamentally contradictory. Only few respondents associate Islam with discrimination against women (20 per cent), with fanaticism (18 per cent) or the propensity to violence (12 per cent). Many more of them see peaceableness in Islam (65 per cent), tolerance (56 per cent), the respecting of human rights (57 per cent) or solidarity (53 per cent) – characteristics that the population as a whole in Germany hardly ascribes to this religion

(5 to 8 per cent). 82 per cent of the population as a whole associate Islam with discrimination against women, 72 per cent with fanaticism and 64 per cent with the propensity to violence.

In contrast, the perceptions of Christianity are very similar: its image among the population as a whole is just as positive as among the people of Turkish origin, thus resembling the image the latter have of Islam.

Members of the second and third generations are better integrated than the first generation

Regarding integration, some of the data of the second and third generations are considerably more positive than that of the first generation: for example, the share of people without a school-leaving qualification has more than halved (13 per cent vs 40 per cent) and the percentage of those with a good command of German (by own account) has doubled (94 per cent vs 47 per cent). While barely half of the first generation says they have a lot of contact with people of German origin, three quarters of the respondents of the second and third generations do so. 39 per cent of the first generation and 67 per cent of the second and third generations claim to have frequent contact with Christians.

The greater approximation of the majority society is also indicated by the ideas of the family and of man and woman. 48 per cent of respondents of the first generation consider it better if the man goes to work and the woman takes care of the household and the children. Only 31 per cent of the second and third generations share this view, while a total of 27 per cent in Germany think the same. (vwm)

Note: For detailed information about the representative survey by TNS Emnid on behalf of Münster University's Cluster of Excellence 'Religion and Politics' please refer to the study ["Integration and Religion as seen by People of Turkish Origin in Germany."](#)

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