



## Integration Climate 2024: Slight Weakening of the Positive Trend

### Summary

The SVR's Integration Barometer (IB) measures the integration climate in Germany's immigration society. The current edition of the IB is based on a nationally representative survey conducted from November 2023 to July 2024. This marks the fifth nationwide survey of the integration climate, which has been conducted biennially since 2015. The IB surveys both people with and without a migration background. Within the former group, it enables a differentiated view on ethnic German resettlers, people of Turkish descent and those with a migration background from the EU and the "rest of the world" category.

Since the survey in 2017/18, the Integration Climate Index (ICI) has risen continuously among both people with and without a migration background, reaching a high of 68.5 points in the 2022 Integration Barometer despite a wide range of challenges. **In the current survey, the Integration Climate Index remains in positive territory at 66.3 points, i.e. above a value of 50 points, but has fallen by 2.2 points. The reason for this development is that people without a migration background are more sceptical about the integration climate than in the last survey: in this group, the Index fell by 3.2 points to 64.9 points. For people with a migration background, on the other hand, the Index is almost unchanged at 70.3 points.** Only the value for respondents of Turkish descent shows a positive development. Among them, the ICI rose by 3.2 points to 69.1 points. At 5.4 points, the assessment of the integration climate of people with and without a migration background now differs more strongly from one another again, having recently converged to 2.0 points.

The more sceptical assessment of the integration climate among people without a migration background cannot be attributed to a slump within a specific group. Rather, the population without a migration background is somewhat more sceptical about the integration climate overall than it was two years ago. The decisive factor here is a more negative assessment of

the two Index sub-areas of education and neighbourhood. With a value of 55.1 Index points, people without a migration background now rate the area of education 5.4 points more negatively than in the last survey. Their perception of the neighbourhood area has also deteriorated to a similar extent to a value of 61.7 points (-4.7 points). The integration climate on the labour market (67.6 points) and especially in social relationships (75.3 points) continue to be perceived much more positively. For people without a migrant background, this shows a clear and increased spread in the assessment of the various sub-areas.

**People without a migration background are less willing to enrol their own child at a school with a diverse student body (-10.2 percentage points) or to move to a diverse neighbourhood (-7 percentage points). One reason for this could be increased scepticism about the ability of the education system and the neighbourhood to integrate.** However, this decline is taking place at a high level overall, as 64.7 percent of respondents without a migration background are still willing to move to an ethnically diverse neighbourhood. **And respondents' personal experiences with origin-related diversity in the education system and in the neighbourhood continue to be predominantly positive.** However, current developments may lead to a higher degree of school and neighbourhood segregation in the medium term and thus to fewer opportunities for intercultural contact in the long term.

As in the 2017/18 survey, the SVR's Integration Barometer 2024 also surveyed attitudes towards refugees. The key findings are as follows:

- **Attitudes towards refugees have not fundamentally changed between the survey dates.** However, respondents are now more sceptical about the expected economic contribution that refugees will be able to make in the future. There is also growing concern that refugees could have a negative impact on prosperity in Germany. In contrast, openness towards cultural diversity has also grown. Only around a quarter of respondents with and without a history of migration expect refugees to give up their cultural way of life if they live in Germany for longer (26.0 % and 23.4 % respectively). Regarding the effects of refugee migration on crime, the population remains divided; there are some clear differences between the individual groups of origin.

- Although assessments of the effects of refugee migration are more negative overall in eastern Germany than in the west, attitudes in both parts of the country have largely developed in parallel over time among respondents without a migration background. Respondents in western and eastern Germany have converged on the question of whether refugees jeopardise prosperity in Germany: More than a third of respondents in western Germany now agree with this statement, which corresponds to an increase of 13.5 percentage points; in eastern Germany, almost every second person without a migrant background believes that refugees are a threat to prosperity.
- **Respondents continue to show a great willingness to grant asylum to individuals seeking protection, especially if they are fleeing political persecution or war.** However, the willingness is significantly reduced if potential asylum seekers are fleeing poverty and have only a low level of education. In addition to differentiating between reasons for fleeing, future benefits for society also appear to play a role in acceptance.

In addition, the current Integration Barometer 2024 surveyed the relocation and migration intentions of people with and without a migration background:

- Relocation and migration intentions differ only slightly between people with and without a migration background. Around two thirds of respondents are neither considering moving within Germany nor emigrating. At the same time, 14.5 per cent of people without a migration background and 16.4 per cent of those with a migration background are considering emigrating, primarily to European countries such as Spain, Switzerland or Scandinavia (Sweden and Norway). Among respondents of Turkish descent who intend to emigrate, Turkey dominates as a possible destination country with 45 per cent of mentions.
- **Intentions to emigrate are much more common among people with low life satisfaction and among those who feel disadvantaged due to their origin.** Around a third of respondents who have experienced severe disadvantage due to their origin are considering emigrating. In contrast, only one in ten of those who have not experienced such discrimination are considering emigrating.