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Work migration and Social work: the Dutch Case

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Migration in the Netherlands

Four different kinds of migration and migrant groups:

1. Post colonial migration: early 1950's: Indonesia, Suriname and the Dutch Antilles.
2. Labour migration: 1960-1970: low-skilled workers from Spain, Italy, Turkey, Marocco.
3. Refugees and asylum seekers: 1980's-1990's from war regions such as Yougaslavia, Africa.
4. Labour migrants from Eastern Europe: 2000 - Poland, Bulgaria, Romenia: due to EU policy

(Engelen, 2001)

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Dutch unemployment rates

	2008	2012
Youth	6,5%,	28,4%
Non- western adults	8,95%	15,5%
Native adults	3,1%	5,0%

Reasons for growing unemployment:

- Economic crisis
- Flexibel jobs: short uncertain jobs: first to loose their jobs
- Discrimination
- More low educated persons
- Segregation (Huijnk, Gijsberts & Dagevos (eds), 2014).

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Polish and Bulgarian migrants

Situation of these migrants is better in terms of labour integration

2013: 81 % Polish migrants have a job
58 % Bulgarian migrants with a job (22% Bulgarian women)

Furthermore:

- More permanent migration of lower skilled migrants and families
- Higher educated migrants leave more often
- Improved dutch language skills
- Experience more discrimination
- Bulgarian migrants are less positive of living in the Netherlands

(Gijsberts & Lubbers, 2015)

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Level of education

2013: 22 % of non Western migrants is higher educated → Contrast with Canada: 57% is higher educated (Witteveen, 2015).

Third generation migrants: are higher educated than their (grand)parents., but lower educated than natives.

2011: Start qualification (CBS, 2011)

Natives:	71%
Western Europe:	71%
Turkey:	42%
Marocco:	42%
Suriname:	58%
Antilles:	61%
Other non western:	59%

Reasons: Early selection for education, wrong teacher advise, school drop outs, educational choices with less chances (Petit et al, 2013)

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Policy: general or specific?

Until recently (2010): Specific policy (target groups): migrants are segregated and lack a supporting network necessary for finding jobs / resources.

Now a change to general policy aiming at participation of all citizens, due to:

1. right wing individualizing government choices
2. less results from policies aiming at specific groups and stimulating higher education in the group of migrants,
3. media and cultural changes in opinion due to crisis

This change seriously affects social workers:

- less opportunities for tailor made support for different groups.
- discrimination becomes less visible: social workers should be very aware of signs of discrimination and exclusion (Coello et al (eds), 2013).

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Role of Social Work(ers)

- Political Role: more focus on social integration and discrimination
- Community development: bridging and bonding (Putman, 2000). Research (Slok, 2014) shows that a bridging context stimulates having a job and having a better job.
- Individual case work: when there are problems e.g. housing, finances, with the children
- Stimulating social inclusion

Examples:

Buddy projects, pre-education, language courses

NB: This work and these initiatives are often conducted by volunteers

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Group assignment:

- **Read the cases:**
 - **Do you recognize them?**
 - **Are social workers in your country engaged with this kind of cases? Similarities/differences?**
- **Choose 1 case for further discussion:**
 - **What would be your approach if you were the social worker?**
 - **What (type of) interventions or method(s) are appropriate for labour participation**

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