

0 Europe and Migration →

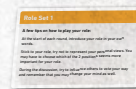
Migration has always been an integral part of Europe's history. Not so long ago, more Europeans were leaving the continent in search of better opportunities than people coming to Europe. Today, most migrants from outside the European Union arrive in a regular way, because of their family, work or education. Asylum seekers, some of whom arrive by boats or cross land borders, represent, on average, less than one fifth of these arrivals every year.



Quick Setup Guide

(Refer to the rule book for detailed instructions on each of the Setup steps.)

One player should keep a **timer** handy to keep track of time.



Give each player a **Role card**.

Take one unused set of
3 Migrant cards and 1 EU Public card.

Read, discuss, and fill them in. Place the EU public chip in one of the three middle spots on the EU card.



Keep the **Smiley chips** and the **Voting chips** ready.
Place the **map** on the table.

You are ready to start the game. Read Event 1, on the next card.

1 Boat in the Mediterranean →



1A Bring them to a European port and distribute those who need protection across EU countries

EU countries share responsibility; refugees get protection

Some countries can get overwhelmed, if all EU states don't accept at least some refugees



1B Send them back to North Africa and compensate the countries that take them back

Fewer people who arrive irregularly by boat can enter the EU

Life for refugees and migrants more difficult than in Europe; host country compensation unpopular with EU citizens



2 A shared responsibility? →



You decided to bring the migrants to the closest EU port and distribute them across the EU.



AHMED

»I can apply for asylum and seek a safe place in Europe.«



YASMINE

»I work hard but my salary is low. I am thinking of going to Europe. I heard they are looking for nurses and pay well.«



FEMI

»I've made it to Europe! They say they'll send me back if I am not a refugee but I can't go home now.«



EU PUBLIC

»A solution has been found. No need to watch images of desperate people in the sea. But how many more will come this way?«

→2

Boat in the Mediterranean

Most migrants come to the EU through legal routes, to work, study or join their families. However, some will not get the necessary permits to enter.

A boat with 200 people is drifting in the Mediterranean off the coast of Africa. Some of the passengers are fleeing for their lives, others are hoping to find better jobs and opportunities in Europe.

Ahmed and Femi are on this boat. Yasmine is still at home, deciding whether to move to the EU.

1A

What should be done?

1B

A shared responsibility?

Ever more refugees and migrants are reaching Europe's shores. EU countries close to the Mediterranean can no longer take care of all the migrants if their fellow members are unwilling to accept them.

Most EU countries are part of the Schengen zone, with no or few border controls. So many migrants can journey onward to other EU countries. The citizens of those countries are getting worried.

2A

What should be done?

2B

You decided that the migrants should be sent back to North Africa.



AHMED

»I try again! With little money left, I set off on a flimsy rubber boat. We are lucky and get picked up by a charity boat.«



YASMINE

»People in Europe are changing their attitudes to migrants. Is it going to be a good place for me?«



FEMI

»I run away and try to make the journey again. I know I might die, but I can't go back home.«



EU PUBLIC

»Europe can't take in all the migrants who come. But how long can we keep sending them away?«

→3

2A More funding and help for countries that accept refugees

EU countries that accept asylum seekers get more EU funding and influence

Asylum seekers are assigned to countries and cannot always choose their EU destination



2B Bring back border controls between EU countries

Each country decides if a person coming from another EU state can enter or not

Costly solution; passport checks and queues when crossing borders



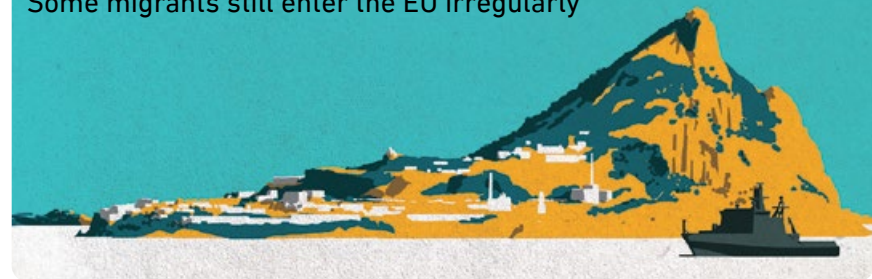
3 Fortress Europe? →




3A Bring in more refugees through resettlement programmes

Some refugees avoid smugglers and dangerous journeys and settle in EU countries that accept them

Some migrants still enter the EU irregularly



You decided that some EU countries can control their borders again.

 AHMED

»I pay the rest of my money to a smuggler to get me where my cousins live. But I'm stopped and sent back to where I first crossed the EU border.«

 YASMINE

»They say the new borders should stop illegal migration but the workers who are needed can still come.«

 FEMI


»I have no money. I'll have to stay here. There are many people like me. The locals are getting angry and the police are more aggressive.«

 EU PUBLIC


»Something is finally being done to control migration! But these new border controls are very costly and make our lives difficult.«

→4

You decided that some EU countries will share asylum seekers.

 AHMED


»I'm sent to a country I know nothing about. I won't be able to join my cousins who promised to help me. But I got my refugee status!«

 YASMINE

»European countries are working together to help migrants. I hope I will also be welcome.«

 FEMI

»They can send me back at any moment. It's stressful but I hope to find work and send money home.«

 EU PUBLIC

»It's good that refugees find safety. But what if too many come and put pressure on schools and hospitals?«

→5

You decided to increase the number of recognised refugees resettled in the EU.

 AHMED

»The charity boat helps me slip into the EU. I'll continue on my own to join my cousins.«

 YASMINE

»If Europe is protecting refugees, perhaps they'll be open to people like me too.«

 FEMI

»I will register with the UN Refugee Agency. Maybe they will select me to go to Europe as a refugee.«

 EU PUBLIC

»Helping refugees is important. But what about the migrants who don't need asylum but still come and stay without documents?«

→6

Fortress Europe?

The EU is losing its image as a safe place for refugees where international law is respected. Some EU citizens protest against what they call 'Fortress Europe'.

Others are unhappy about North African and Middle Eastern nationals allowed into the EU in return for their countries hosting refugees and migrants from further afield.

The protests divide the EU public into pro- and anti-migration camps and risk turning violent.

3A

What is your priority?

3B

3B Increase Europe's external border controls

New border guards and technology reduce the number of irregular arrivals

People who need international protection find it even harder to get to Europe



4 Future Outcome



5 Future Outcome



6 Future Outcome



Borders up, keep irregular migrants away

Ahmed reaches safety but it is expensive and full of setbacks. **Yasmine** hopes that foreign nurses may still be needed in Europe. **Femi** gets stuck in Southern Europe.

EU society is neither more open nor more closed. The EU is divided over how to deal with asylum seekers and irregular migrants coming via the Mediterranean. Some countries have brought back border controls that had been abandoned years ago. They are costly and slow down the economy. But some people think it is worth it to keep migrants away.

→8

You decided that the EU should increase control of its external borders.



AHMED

»It's hard to get to Europe. Coast guards bring us back to Africa. But I'll try again anyway.«



YASMINE

»It's getting more difficult to enter Europe. But I hope that people who have a job offer can still come.«



FEMI

»I don't have money to pay smugglers. I'm angry. I'll do whatever to earn some money and try again later.«



EU PUBLIC

»Fewer people are able to cross EU borders without documents. But some say that Europe no longer respects its laws and values.«

→7

Tensions in neighbouring countries; a welcoming but divided EU

Ahmed reaches Europe thanks to a charity boat. **Yasmine** is concerned but still hopes to be welcome in Europe. **Femi** tries to get in as a refugee.

EU society is neither more open nor more closed. Fewer asylum seekers reach the EU. Many get stuck in neighbouring countries and the conditions there are difficult. These countries ask for funding and easier access to the EU for their citizens. Only a fraction of those who need resettlement get to Europe because not all EU countries take part in the programme.

→8

Acceptance, integration and EU frictions

Ahmed is safe. **Yasmine** believes that Europe is the place to be. **Femi** is stuck with his irregular status and tries to earn money to send home.

EU society is becoming more open. Asylum seekers are distributed between countries so that each country has a manageable number. The EU spends a lot of money on helping them to integrate but it takes time. The EU also invests in returning people who don't have the right to stay. However, some member countries have stopped collaborating on migration issues. This creates frictions inside the bloc.

→8

7 Future Outcome



8 Workers needed



8A Make it easier to hire foreign workers

Employers get easier access to workers from outside the EU

Some people are concerned that migrants might take their jobs



8B Nationals first!

More training and support for local workers;
investment in technology

Services typically performed by migrants
become more expensive



Workers needed

Employers in your country are complaining that they can't find enough workers. They want easier entry for workers with different skills and qualifications from outside the EU.


This round is no longer only about refugees and irregular migrants but about migrants coming to work through regular routes. Yasmine decided to move to your country. Ahmed and Femi also live there.

8A

What is your priority?

8B

You decided to make it harder for companies to hire workers from outside the EU.

 AHMED

»Politicians say that jobs should go first to local people. It's difficult to find regular work.«

 YASMINE

»The procedure was too complicated for the hospital that wanted to hire me. But I am here anyway. I found a job as a carer in a private home.«

 FEMI

»There are jobs that the locals simply won't do. I always find something to do, even without documents.«

 EU PUBLIC

»Salaries in some sectors are up. Robots are used more and more. But we don't have enough nurses and doctors.«

→10

Irregular arrivals down, costly borders & divided societies


Ahmed reaches Europe but his journey is full of setbacks.

Yasmine is concerned but still hopes she'll be able to work in the EU. **Femi** runs out of money, which makes him more likely to turn to crime.

EU society is becoming more closed. Fewer migrants arrive via illegal routes, but border controls are costly. Relations with neighbouring countries that host migrants are tense and the conditions for refugees there are getting worse. Some Europeans appreciate more migration control but others want the EU to be a safe place for refugees.

→8

You decided to make it easier for foreign workers to come and work legally in your country.

 AHMED


»There's more competition for jobs. But at least people understand that migrants are needed in this country.«

 YASMINE

»The hospital that hired me took care of my papers. But they didn't recognise my experience from home. I'll be paid less until I can pass an exam.«

 FEMI

»There are more controls to stop illegal work. It's getting difficult for me to find jobs.«

 EU PUBLIC

»We lack qualified workers and migrants make services like healthcare accessible. But more needs to be done to help them fit in.«

→9

9 What integration?



9A Invest in integration and accept diversity

Help migrants learn the language and adapt to local life; their closest family members can join easily

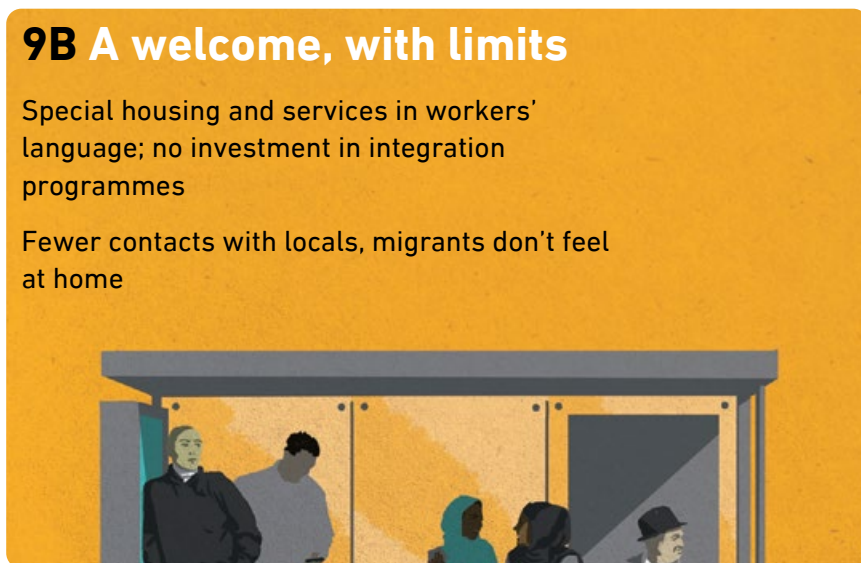
Migrants' home countries don't have enough workers if too many leave for Europe



9B A welcome, with limits

Special housing and services in workers' language; no investment in integration programmes

Fewer contacts with locals, migrants don't feel at home



10 Return or stay?



You decided to support migrant workers' integration.



AHMED

»Foreigners can start a new life here. Like me - I don't see myself going back home anytime soon.«



YASMINE

»I like this country but I miss my family. For now, my salary is too low, but I hope they will soon join me.«



FEMI

»This makes little difference for me. Only people with documents can go to these integration courses.«



EU PUBLIC

»Our country needs foreign workers. If they respect the laws, they should be allowed to stay.«

→12

What integration?

You decided to make it easier for foreigners to come and work in your country in occupations that are hard to fill. How will you ensure they are treated fairly and accepted by your fellow citizens?

9A

What should be done?

9B

Return or stay?

You decided to make it more difficult for non-EU citizens to come and work in your country. But not all jobs can be filled by local workers. The media is writing about migrants who work illegally, and don't pay income tax or social security. They are often exploited by employers and can't access their basic rights.

10A

What is your priority?

10B

You decided to treat migrant workers as temporary guests who will eventually go home.



AHMED

»People here keep asking me: When will you return home? But my home is here now!«



YASMINE

»For now, I like to live with other foreign nurses. But I'll move to a different country if my family can't join me here.«



FEMI

»It is hard to live without documents. When I save enough money I'll go back home.«



EU PUBLIC

»We may need migrant workers, but we don't want our society to change too much because of migration.«

→11

10A Allow some irregular migrants to stay

Some law-abiding irregular migrants with a job are allowed to stay

Some fear that this will encourage more irregular migrants to come, assuming they too will eventually get papers



10B Try to return more irregular migrants to their countries

More respect for migration rules; some migrants get assistance to re-start their lives at home

Migrants end up in detention centres; some countries of origin do not take them back




11 Future Outcome



12 Future Outcome



You decided to try to send back more irregular migrants.

 **AHMED**

»This country is getting more suspicious of foreigners. I often get checked by the police.«

 **YASMINE**

»I'm caring for old people in their homes. One lady didn't pay for my work. When I complained, she threatened to report me to the police.«

 **FEMI**


»There're more controls but so far, I've been lucky. I can still work and send money home.«

 **EU PUBLIC**

»Migrants with no right to be here should be sent back. But it doesn't seem right when families with children end up in detention centres.«

→13

You decided to allow some irregular migrants to stay in your country.

 **AHMED**


»It is good to see that migrants who work in this country and respect the law can get their papers after all.«

 **YASMINE**

»I got my papers! I can speak the language now and hope to find proper work in a hospital soon.«

 **FEMI**

»It didn't work out for me. I didn't have the right documents.«

 **EU PUBLIC**

»These people live here anyway. It's better to let some of them stay. But what if this amnesty attracts more irregular migrants?«

→14

Open doors for some & brain drain

Ahmed starts to feel at home. **Yasmine** tries to fit in, but misses her family. **Femi** is tired of working hard and living without documents.

EU society is becoming more open. Foreign workers can come and work legally. They get support in learning the language and settling in. It takes some time, but eventually, their work experience from home is recognised and their close families can join them without difficulties. But some countries face the problem of many educated people leaving for Europe.

→15

Parallel lives and new destinations

Ahmed struggles to feel at home. **Yasmine** copes well but won't stay without her family. **Femi** is getting fed up with his irregular status.

EU society is neither more open nor more closed. There are more foreign workers, but they are not expected to stay for good. Many live parallel lives and have few contacts with the locals. It's hard for them to bring over their families. Skilled workers are looking at other destinations outside Europe, where they might have better prospects for settling down.

→15

13 Future Outcome



14 Future Outcome



15 Migrants in your city



15A Start a new integration programme

More language courses and job trainings for all migrants

Some people are opposed to spending money on migrants



Irregular migrants get a chance

Ahmed is more optimistic about the future. **Yasmine** gets her papers in order despite a difficult start. **Femi** keeps working but stays irregular.

EU society is neither more open nor more closed. Restrictions on foreign workers can perpetuate grey zones of irregularity if there is demand for their work in the economy. Many people think that irregular migrants should get a chance to stay if they work and don't cause trouble. But some fear this will encourage more irregular migration.

→15

Grey zones and social tensions

Ahmed doesn't feel at home. **Yasmine** has a job but it's difficult to work in such uncertain circumstances. **Femi** is lucky for now and finds his way.

EU society is becoming more closed. Foreign workers are not welcome and there are more efforts to return irregular migrants. But it's hard and costly to send back people who don't want to leave. Civil society organisations protest against forced returns. The country is divided over how to treat foreigners who are part of the society but don't have the right to stay.

→15

You launched a new integration programme.

😊 **AHMED**

»I am taking a language course that is combined with work experience. This will help me find a job. I'll tell my friends from other cities to move over here.«

😊 **FEMI**

»It's getting easier to live here. Even without documents, I can attend a language course.«

😞 **YASMINE**

»The city wants to help immigrants. But I am worried when local people complain the mayor spends too much money on foreigners.«

➡ **EU PUBLIC**

»Migrants should get help to learn the language and find a job. But what if a lot of money is spent and they're still on benefits?«

→16

Migrants in your city

Your city already has many foreign-born people, and more are coming. Migrants often settle in the same neighbourhoods. In some of these, there are reports of poverty and rising criminality, and tensions with locals are growing.

Femi is living in one such neighbourhood. He still has no papers. Ahmed got social housing in the same area. Yasmine is now working as a nurse and rents a small flat nearby.

15A

What is your priority?

15B

15B Invest to improve housing in the problematic areas

New playgrounds and parks; renovated flats offered to local working families

Neighbourhood becomes more attractive; some migrants have to move out to cheaper places



16 Migrant neighbourhoods →



16A Help migrants into jobs

Funding for local businesses to train and hire immigrants

Some people are against funding special programmes for immigrants



16B Put more police officers and cameras into problematic neighbourhoods

Some people feel reassured

Some migrants feel targeted and worried about police harassment



Migrant neighbourhoods

The integration programme you launched some time ago shows good results, but migrants still concentrate in certain neighbourhoods. There is high unemployment and negative coverage in the media. Recently, there were violent attacks against foreigners by anti-immigration groups.

16A
What is your priority?
16B

You decided to improve housing in the rundown areas and bring in more local families.


AHMED

»It's good that the city invests in this place. But why did they have to move our language lessons to another district?«


YASMINE

»My house got renovated and my rent increased but I am glad the reputation of this neighbourhood is improving.«


FEMI

»A centre with free medical help closed down because they couldn't pay the rent. Where will I go if I get sick now?«


EU PUBLIC

»There are more affordable flats for local families. But what about migrants who can't afford to live there anymore? Where will they go?«

→17

You decided to invest in security in the parts where many recent immigrants live.


AHMED

»I feel a bit safer, but also less welcome. When employers see my address, they don't invite me for job interviews.«


YASMINE

»This is good news. I often get back from work late and don't always feel safe.«


FEMI

»I don't like this. What if they start checking papers?«


EU PUBLIC

»Something is being done about crime in this city. But is it really going to solve the problems in those neighbourhoods?«

→19

You decided to encourage local businesses to train and hire more immigrants.


AHMED

»I got employed by a local supermarket. It's not what I wanted but better than living on benefits.«


YASMINE

»I'm glad to see more migrants working in my area. Perhaps my husband could also find work when he joins me?«


FEMI

»The city supports jobs for migrants, but only with papers. I'm worried I'll lose my job.«


EU PUBLIC

»More immigrants find work in local businesses. It's good but are the local unemployed getting the same support?«

→18

17 Living on the margins →



17A Invest in better relations between communities

Local initiatives try to bring people together and break stereotypes

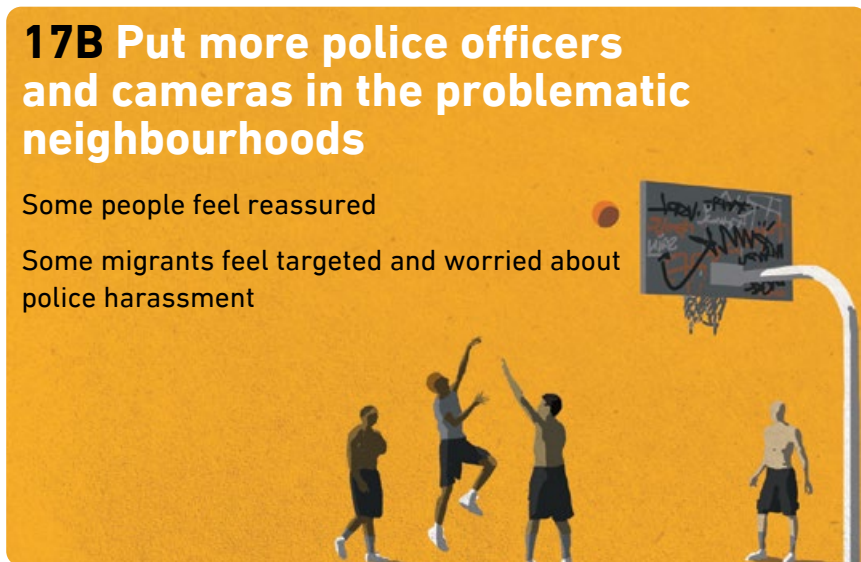
Groups that oppose integration are hard to reach and convince



17B Put more police officers and cameras in the problematic neighbourhoods

Some people feel reassured

Some migrants feel targeted and worried about police harassment



18 Future Outcome



You decided to invest in better relations between the locals and newcomers.



AHMED

»So far, I've only socialised with people from my country. It's time to get to know some local people.«



YASMINE

»It would be nice to have more contacts with the people here. But will they stop seeing us as a problem?«



FEMI

»I was feeling lonely but then I met the love of my life! Life's good for now.«



EU PUBLIC

»It's not always true what the media say about migrants. Many are hardworking people, worried about the same things as we are.«

→20

Living on the margins

Some neighbourhoods are becoming more attractive and there is a mix of native and immigrant population. But poorer migrants had to move to cheaper areas with bad reputation for poverty and crime. There are few contacts between migrants and locals in these places. It's hard to find a job with such an address.

17A

What is your priority?

17B

Language, work and better relations

Ahmed is happy to get a job. **Yasmine** imagines future for her family in the city. **Femi** is trying to fit in but is worried about keeping his job.

EU society is becoming more open. The city has invested in integration through courses and employment support. It is not always possible to match jobs with migrants' skills and make full use of their potential. Many locals appreciate migrants' efforts to learn the language and find work. Relations are improving.

→22

You decided to improve security in the parts where many recent immigrants live.



AHMED

»I feel a bit safer, but also less welcome. When employers see my address, they don't invite me for job interviews.«



YASMINE

»This is good news. I often get back from work late and don't always feel safe.«



FEMI

»I don't like this. What if they start checking papers?«



EU PUBLIC

»Something is being done about crime in this city. But is this really going to solve the problems in those neighbourhoods?«

→21

19 Future Outcome



20 Future Outcome



21 Future Outcome



22 Discuss



Bridging the gap?

Ahmed makes new connections with locals. **Yasmine** is settling in well but worries about peoples' negative views of foreigners.

Femi is in love and it helps him cope with difficulties in his life.

EU society is neither more open nor more closed. The city is changing fast. Many newcomers have settled here recently. In some parts of the city, communities are divided and locals have few contacts with migrants. But the situation may change when different communities try to bridge the gap.

→22

Tensions under control, divided communities

Ahmed is doing his best to find a job but feels discriminated against. **Yasmine** is working hard and appreciates changes in her neighbourhood. **Femi** is trying to fit in but fears the police.

EU society is neither more open nor more closed. The city is changing. Many newcomers have arrived recently and the mayor is doing her best to help them settle in. With improved security in the problematic neighbourhoods, some people feel reassured. But more still needs to be done to improve relations between locals and migrants.

→22

Discuss

You've reached the end of the story. Look again at your 3 future outcomes and discuss:

Are Ahmed, Femi and Yasmine more or less happy? Did their dreams come true? Will they stay in your country?

Is society more closed or open to immigration? Would you like to live in these futures yourself?

What did you learn? Can you suggest better solutions to the challenges?


If other groups played the game at the same time, compare your outcomes with them and discuss the differences.


Safe but not sound, tensions to come

Ahmed struggles to feel at home. **Yasmine** is doing alright and feels safer in her neighbourhood. **Femi** thinks that nobody cares about him.



EU society is becoming more closed. The city is changing fast. Many migrants have settled here recently. The mayor doesn't invest in migrant integration programmes because she's worried about a backlash from locals. With more security in the problem neighbourhoods, some people are reassured. But with few contacts between locals and migrants, there could be more problems in the future.


→22


Ahmed dreams of: 





25 year-old
Middle East
Car mechanic
Single, no kids
"I would get tortured or killed if I stayed at home."






Femi dreams of: 




21 year-old
West Africa
Fisherman
Single, no kids
"I can't make a living at home. My family borrowed money to send me to Europe."

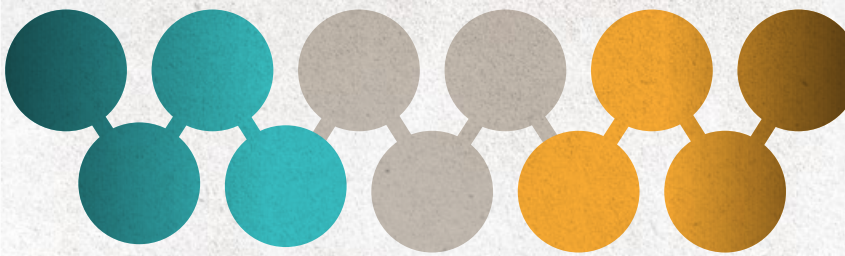
Yasmine dreams of: 




32 year-old
North Africa
Nurse
Husband and 2 children (9 and 7 y-o)
"I work hard, but my salary is too low."




EU Public



OPEN **NEUTRAL** **CLOSED**

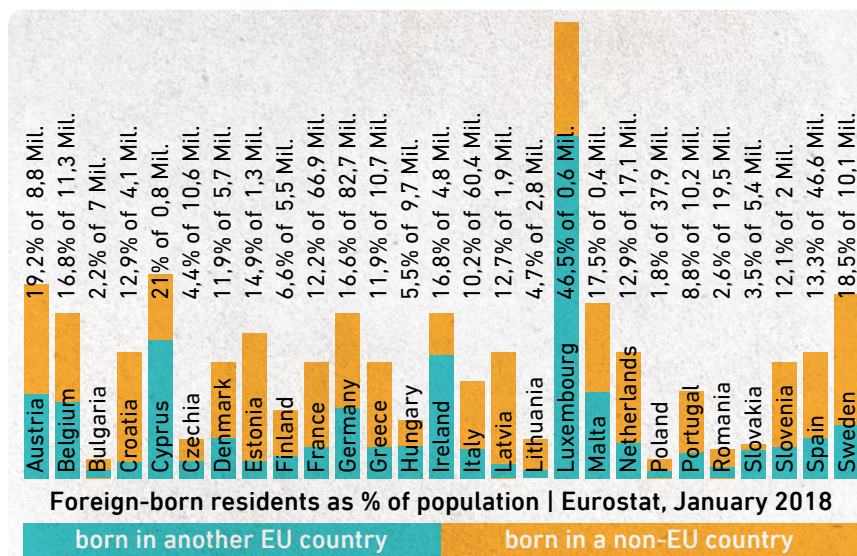
your country: 

population:
(see backside)

% of foreignborn
population:

GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE PEACE
 DIGNITY MONEY HAPPINESS
 RULE OF LAW HUMAN RIGHTS
 EQUALITY EDUCATION HOME
 JOB SUCCESS DEMOCRACY
 ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITIES
 SAFETY FREEDOM CHILDREN
 MARRIAGE RETURN CAREER
 FAMILY SAVINGS PROSPERITY

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