

Equality and Inclusion in Open Societies

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Every regulation limiting the access to countries, labour markets, or other systems of society is likely to have counterproductive effects, and let people put their talents and their resources in the circumvention of entry barriers. Such regulations must, therefore, be kept at a minimum, and be replaced by an equal rights regime whenever possible. The four freedoms of the European Union are a perfect example of such an inclusive situation where the rights of every participant are guaranteed, and s/he can move freely, at the same time contributing to an optimal allocation of labour resources. An open regime returns to the people the sovereignty over their lives and produces less side effects, illegality and exploitation than any complicated regulative system, based on quotas or different statuses. EU enlargement should emphasize the step-by-step introduction of such economic freedom and social equality to more and more people.

At the same time, immigrants must have complete access to economic advancement, all the systems of social security, to quality education, political freedoms, and an easy and early chance to naturalize. Access to trade unions, works' councils and other organizations of collective interest opens ways to foster well-being and solidarity, and helps the immigrant and the indigenous working population to reach out for good working conditions and wages, thus preventing the worsening of the quality of life for the lower strata of society by way of extra-exploitation of immigrants. At the same time, strong and inclusive trade unions act as watchdogs against the prevention of spots of illegal work, in their own organizational interest. An open system of quality education for all is a precondition for equal chances for the "second generation", as every institutionalized barrier cuts off immigrant children from the more prestigious educational institutions, and thus not only reduces their opportunities but also prevents some of the best brains working in business, academia and politics. Naturalization and *ius soli* clears the way to meaningful political participation, and puts politicians in a position to compete for the votes of the immigrants as well as other voters, making it more unlikely to opt for xenophobic tactics.