

University of Luxembourg

The Role of Universities in Addressing Societal Challenges and Fostering Democracy: Inclusion, Migration, and Education for Citizenship.

University of Akureyri, Iceland, 26.03.2021



## Section 4B: Receiving country perspectives on migration

Can Iceland learn from Luxembourg?  
Understanding the host country perspective  
in an increasingly plural composed society



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- Luxembourg & Iceland – Context
- Small State Theory
- Attitudes towards immigrants – Findings in Iceland
- MIPEX – Key indicators for Luxembourg & Iceland
- Conclusions
- Questions 😊

# Luxembourg Iceland – some context



# Some figures:

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	Iceland 	Luxembourg 
Population	341,243	625,978
World Ranking Population	<b>181/235</b>	<b>169/ 235</b>
Size	103,000 km <sup>2</sup>	2,586 km <sup>2</sup>
World Ranking Size	<b>108/232</b>	<b>176/232</b>
Foreign population percentage (2020):	13.9%	<b>47.4%</b>
Until 2000	< 2%	Steady growth

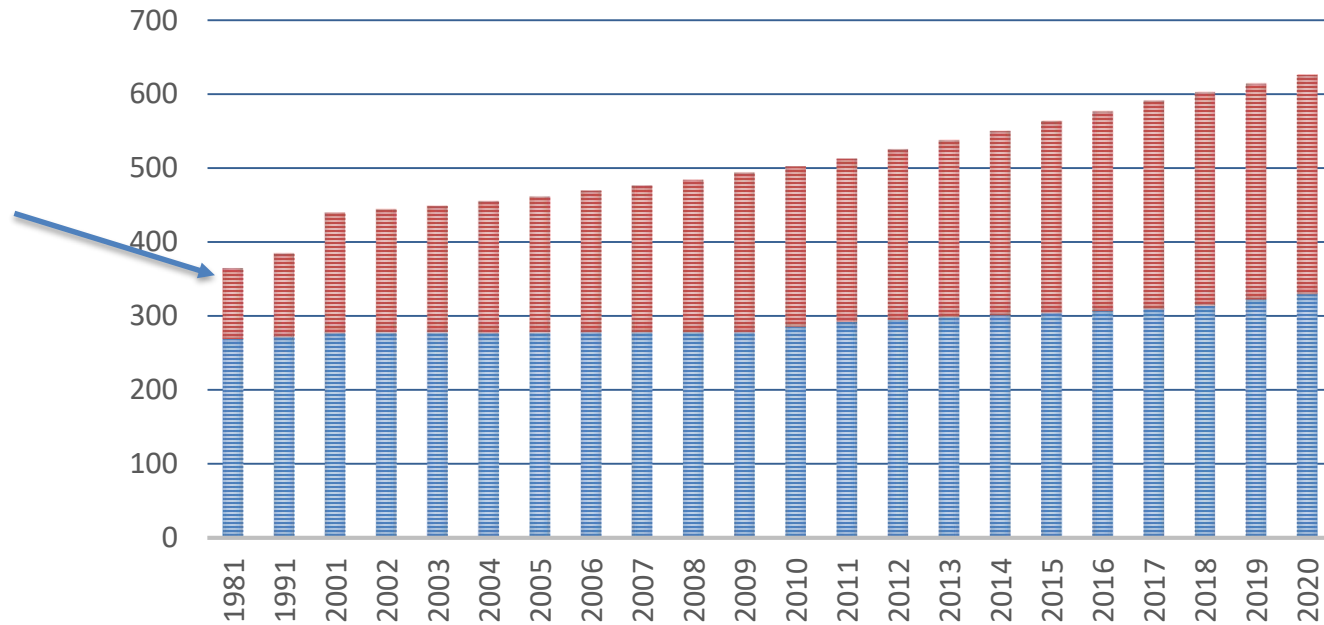
<https://www.worldometers.info/population/>, Statec, Statistics Iceland

# Recent evolution of Luxembourg population:

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## POPULATION

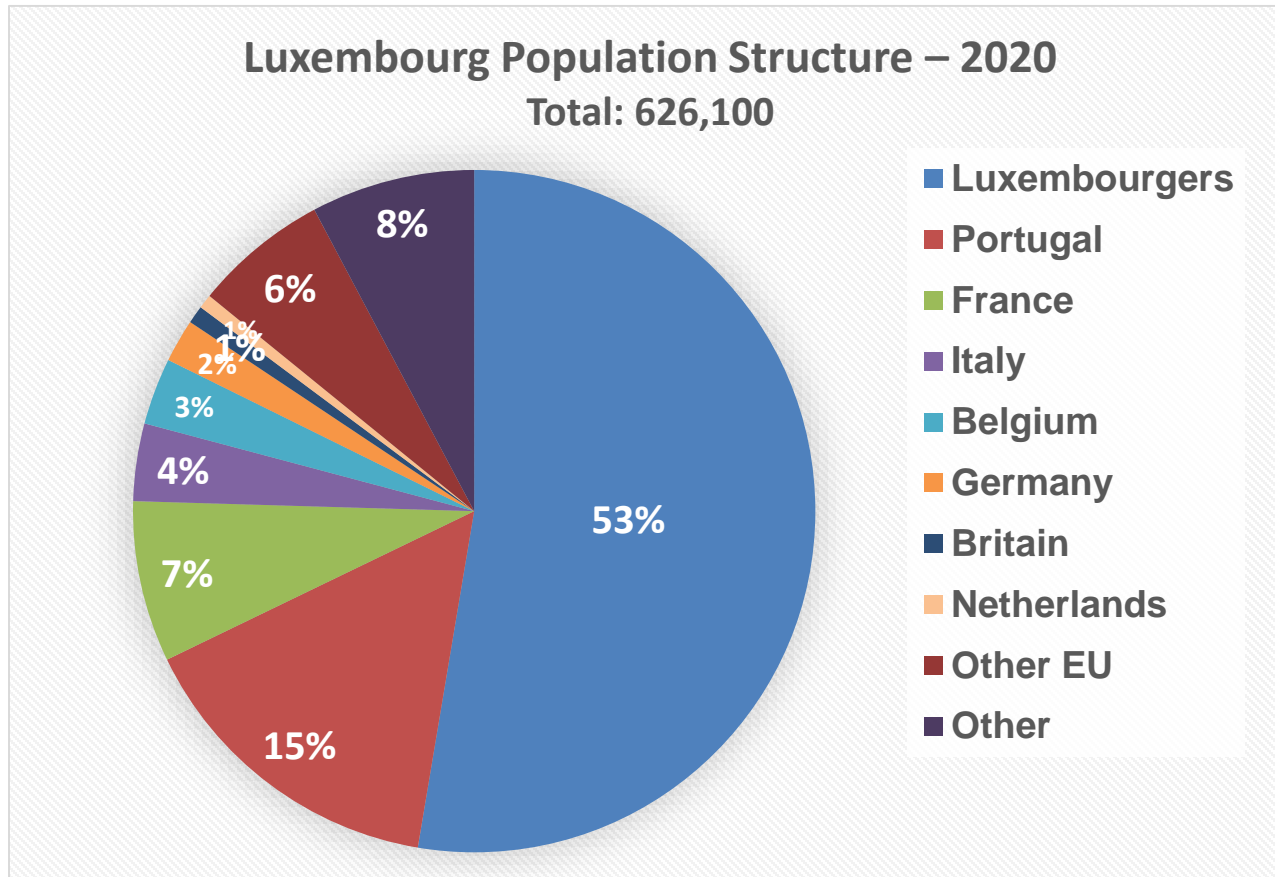
■ Luxembourgers ■ Foreigners



Source: Statec

# Luxembourg's current population structure

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Source: Statec

New arrivals, first 2nd & 3rd generation

# Small State Theory

# Small State Theory (Katzenstein, 2003; 1985)

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- Political logic in terms of small states: Differences in structure & strategies set them apart from large states
  - Scale of their operations
  - Perception of **vulnerability**
- Small states tend to
  - Be more open for *international* liberalisation – join alliances
  - Be more open for *national* compensation (Ideology of *social* partnership)
  - Show flexible *adaptation*
  - Trajectory of *negotiated* change
  - Political system of proportional representation – forming of *coalitions* – creating many winners.
  - Perceived lower intensity of overt racism.

Katzenstein, P. (2003). Small states and small states revisited. *New political economy*, 8(1), 9-10.

Katzenstein, P. (1985). *Small States in World Markets*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.

# Defining characteristics of small states:

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- Small states tend to:
  1. ...have relatively *homogeneous* populations;
  2. ... are open to international economies;
  3. ... create niches in global economies;
  4. ... promote social solidarity due to perceived notions of vulnerability to external shocks;
  5. ... often focus on *language* as unifying force;
  6. ... possess efficient and effective governments because of their propensity for interpersonal relations.
  
- Small state theory can contribute to migrant integration theory (Kolnberger & Koff, 2021)

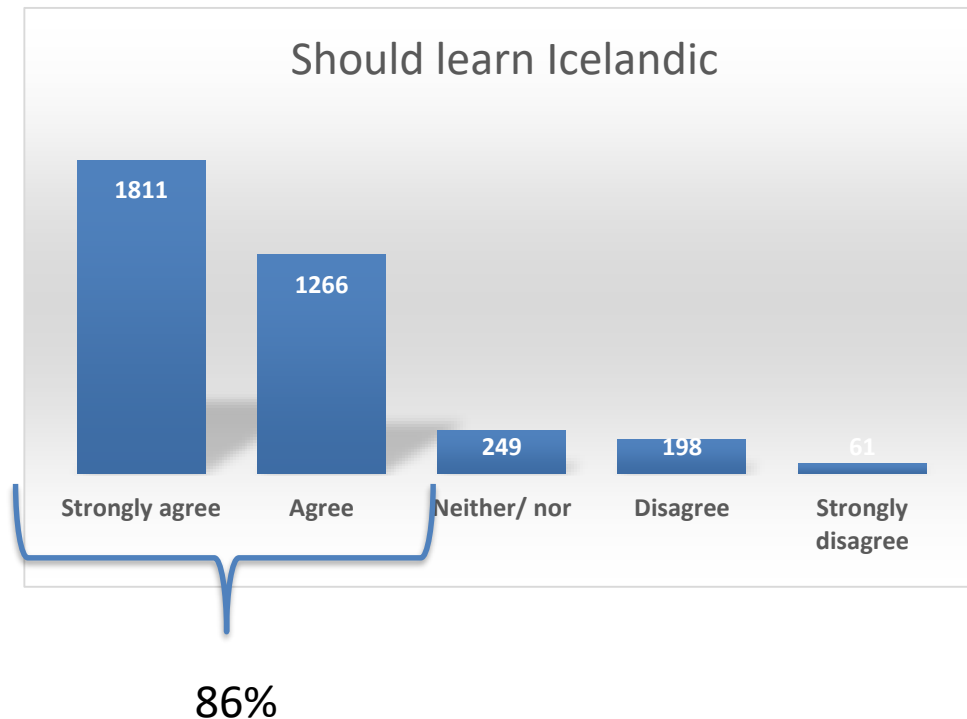
# Attitudes towards Immigrants – Findings from the Inclusive Societies Project

# Immigration – relatively new phenomenon in Iceland – What is the attitude of the host society to immigration?

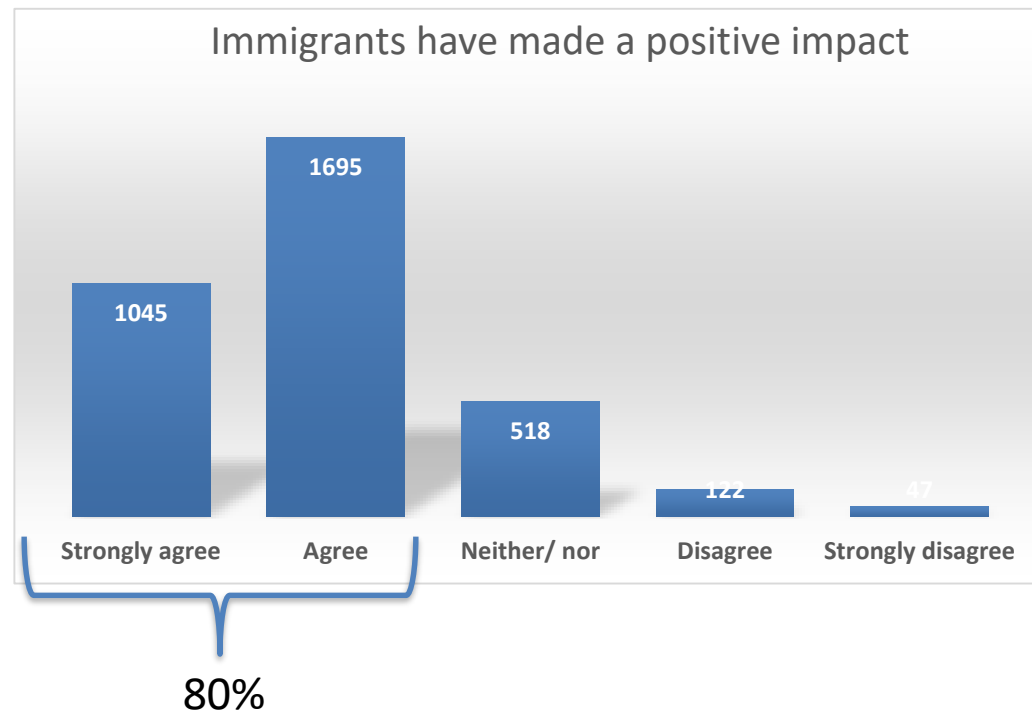
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- Quantitative survey
  - N = 3630 native Icelanders
  - 51.1% women
  - $M_{age} = 50.8$   $SD = 15.6$
  - Spread across all regions of Iceland
  
- Completed a survey – covering a range of domains:
  1. Language/ learning Icelandic
  2. Impact of immigrants in the community
  3. Perception of immigrants – reporting in the media
  4. Contact with immigrants
  5. Adoption of local customs

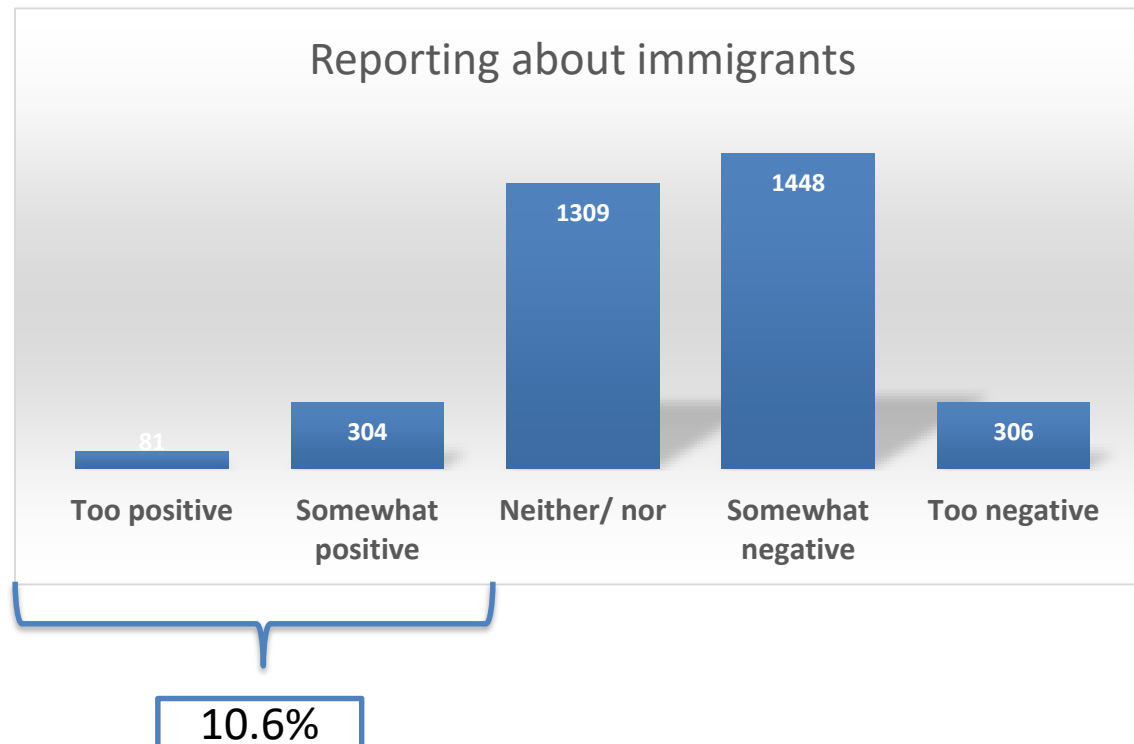
- Immigrants moving to your municipality have to learn Icelandic.
  - $M = 1.73$   $SD = 0.94$  Mode of **1** (Scale 1 = agree strongly, 5 = disagree strongly)
  - Learning Icelandic => expected



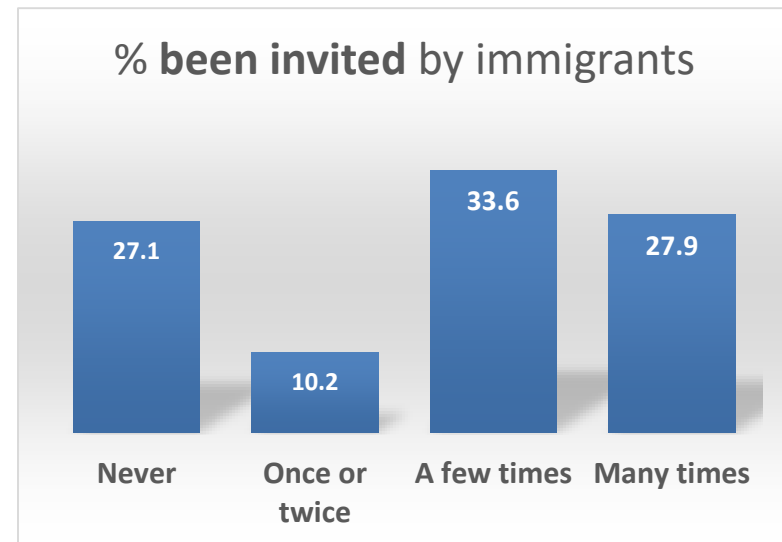
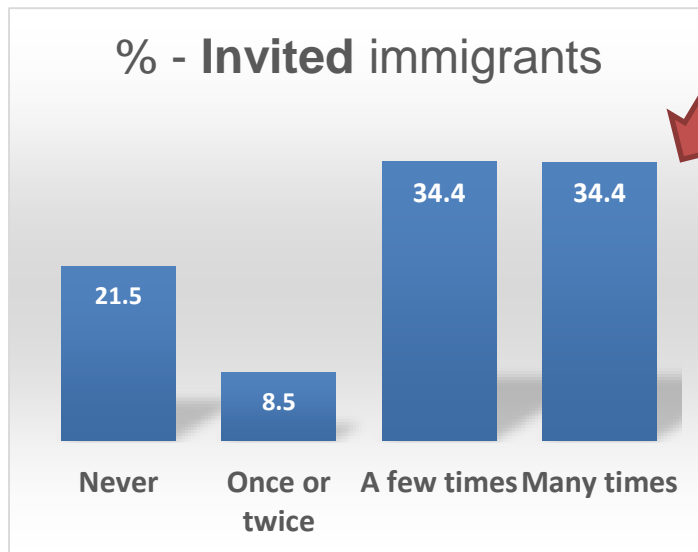
- Strong agreement: Immigrants have made a positive impact in the municipality
- $M = 1.96$   $SD = 0.85$  Mode of **2** (Scale 1 = agree strongly, 5 = disagree strongly)



- Reporting about immigrants in the **media**:
  - (Too) positive – 10.6%; undecided – 36.1%; (Too) negative – 48.3%
  - $M = 3.46$   $SD = 0.86$  Mode of **4** (Scale 1 = too positive, 5 = too negative)



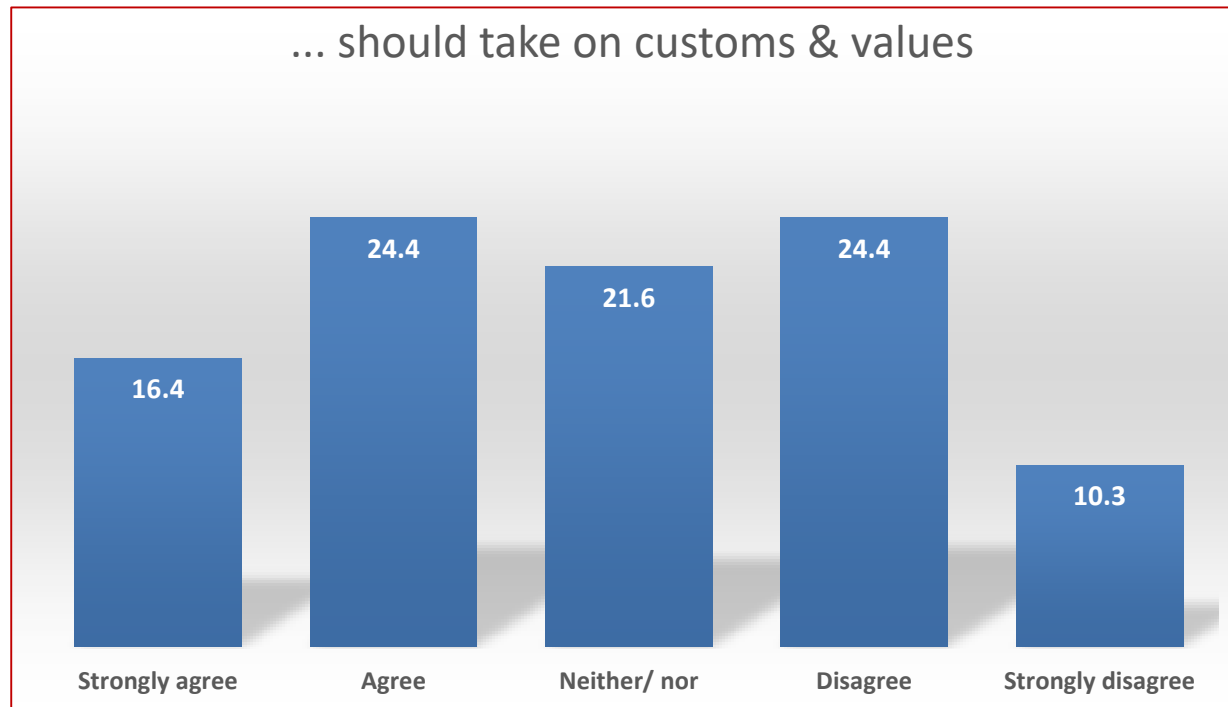
- I have invited / been invited by immigrants to my home:
  - Across all municipalities in Iceland
  - Higher in incidence in Reykjavik / younger/ travelled



# Expectations of Immigrants - Behaviour

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- Adopt local customs and values
  - $M = 2.87$   $SD = 1.26$  Mode of **2** (Scale 1 = agree strongly, 5 = disagree strongly)



# Initial insights – survey host country perspective:

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- Importance placed on learning **Icelandic language**
  - Note: the difficulties of learning Icelandic – (teaching and speaking practice) were elaborated on day 1 of this conference
- Interaction – **social contact** => in all municipalities
  - Prior experience & opportunity facilitates contact
  - Age – younger people have travelled more – more social contact
  - No gender effects.
- Degree of **Openness** (Impact in community, reporting in the media, social contact)
  - Uncertainty in terms of adoption of local customs (largest variance)
  - Uncertainty on *How* to accommodate immigrants.
  - Learning trajectory

# MIPEX indicators – IS - LU

- Migrant Integration Policy Index (2020)
- Compares **52** countries in **8** Policy areas

Policy indicators:

- 1. Basic rights:** Can immigrants enjoy comparable rights as nationals? e.g., equal rights to work, training, health, and non-discrimination;
- 2. Equal opportunities:** Can immigrants receive support to enjoy comparable opportunities as nationals? e.g. targeted support in education, health, and political participation;
- 3. Secure future:** Can immigrants settle long-term and feel secure about their future in the country? e.g., family reunification, permanent residence and access to nationality.

<https://www.mipex.eu/what-is-mipex>

Migration Policy Group – independent  
non-profit organisation & Barcelona  
Centre for International Affairs.

## Policy areas:

1. Labour market mobility
2. Family Reunion
3. Education
4. Political participation
5. Permanent Residence
6. Access to Nationality
7. Anti-Discrimination
8. Health

## Assessment:

80-100	Favourable
60 – 79	Slightly favourable
41 – 59	Halfway favourable
21 – 40	Slightly unfavourable
01 – 20	Unfavourable
0	Critically unfavourable

- **Comprehensive integration.** A comprehensive approach to integration guarantees equal rights, opportunities and security for immigrants. Average score **75/100** – range 64 – 86
  - Top Five: (**Sweden, 86**, Finland, 85; Portugal, 81; Canada, 80; New Zealand, 77)
- **Comprehensive integration - Slightly favourable.** Comprehensive approach to integration, but less advanced & comprehensive than Top MIPEX countries. Policies do not always encourage the public to see immigrants as their equals, neighbours and potential citizens.

Average score: **60/100**

- Norway (69)
- **Luxembourg (64)**
- Spain (60)
- Iceland (56)

- **Temporary integration**
- **Immigration without integration**

# Iceland & Luxembourg: highest climbers!

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- MIPEX score change from 2014 to 2019:

Luxembourg: +10 to 64

Iceland: +7 to 56

- Note: average MIPEX country index: + 2

# Policies – Summaries (2020):

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Policy	Iceland	Luxembourg
Labour market mobility	33	35
Family reunion	62	52
Education	45	64
Health	54	46
Political participation	65	85
Permanent residence	77	58
Access to nationality	55	<b>79</b>
Anti-discrimination	<b>57</b> (6 in 2017)	<b>89</b>
Total	56	64

- Recognition as a **country of immigration** -> more secure basic rights and support for equal opportunities.
- Right to protection from **discrimination** -> Regulatory framework prohibits discrimination on grounds of race/ethnicity and religion/ belief in nearly all areas of public life from employment to education.
- Rise -> mainly due to **anti-discrimination legislation**.

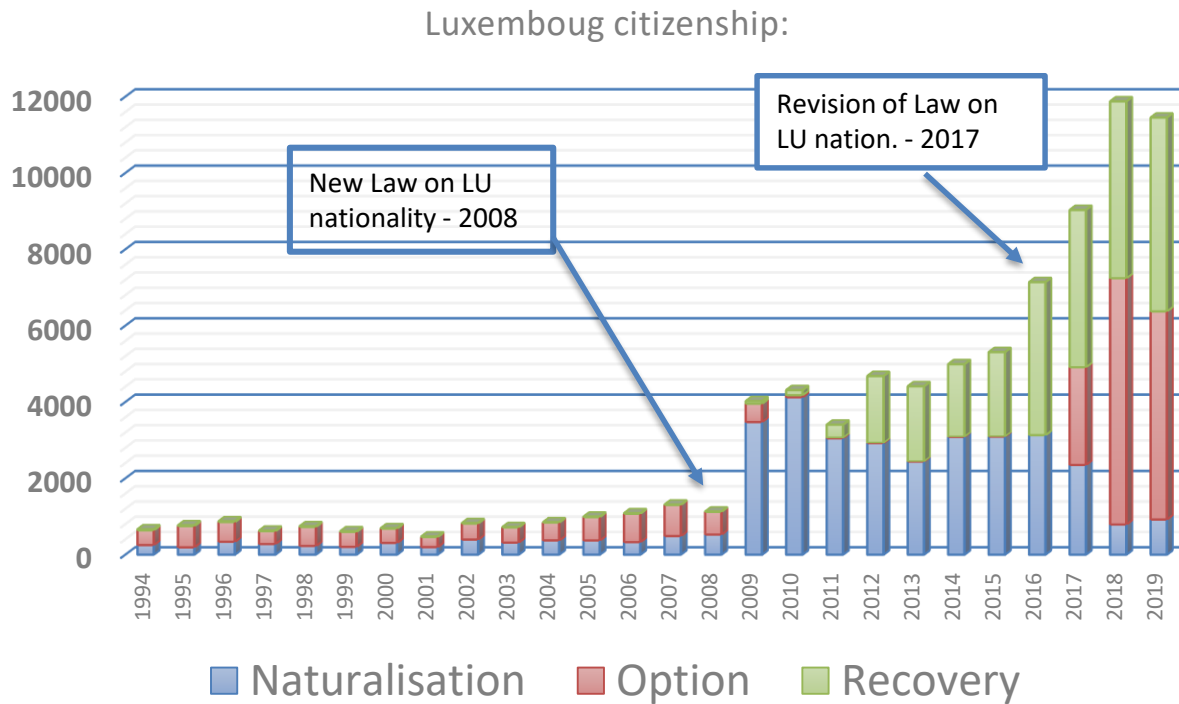
- Recognition as a **country of immigration** -> more secure basic rights and support for equal opportunities.
- Anti-discrimination protection - mainstream equal rights in different areas of life
- Nationality Law Reform

- Access to nationality – Reforms of the Luxembourg Nationality Law.
  - First Reform in 2008:
    - Allows for **dual citizenship**
    - Provides for different access routes to citizenship
      - **Naturalizations** (Einbürgerung)
        - Residency requirement
        - Citizenship classes
        - Luxembourg Language Test (A2 Speaking, B1 Listening Comprehension, Language Test costs € 75).
        - Being of good repute
      - **Option** – application through Ministry of Justice
      - **Recovery/ Reclaim** (Luxembourg ancestors)
- 2015 –failed referendum on voting rights for foreigners (78% no)

- Reform of New Law on Luxembourg nationality (2017):
  - Lowering of the residency requirement to 5 years (prior to application)
  - 24 hours citizenship classes („Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg“) plus Test.
  - Luxembourgish language requirement remains
- Extending the acquisition through Option.
  - Facilitation of acquisition of citizenship for people living in Luxembourg > 20 years (attendance of language classes).
  - Facilitation of acquisition of citizenship for children born in Luxembourg

# Take up of Luxembourgish citizenship:

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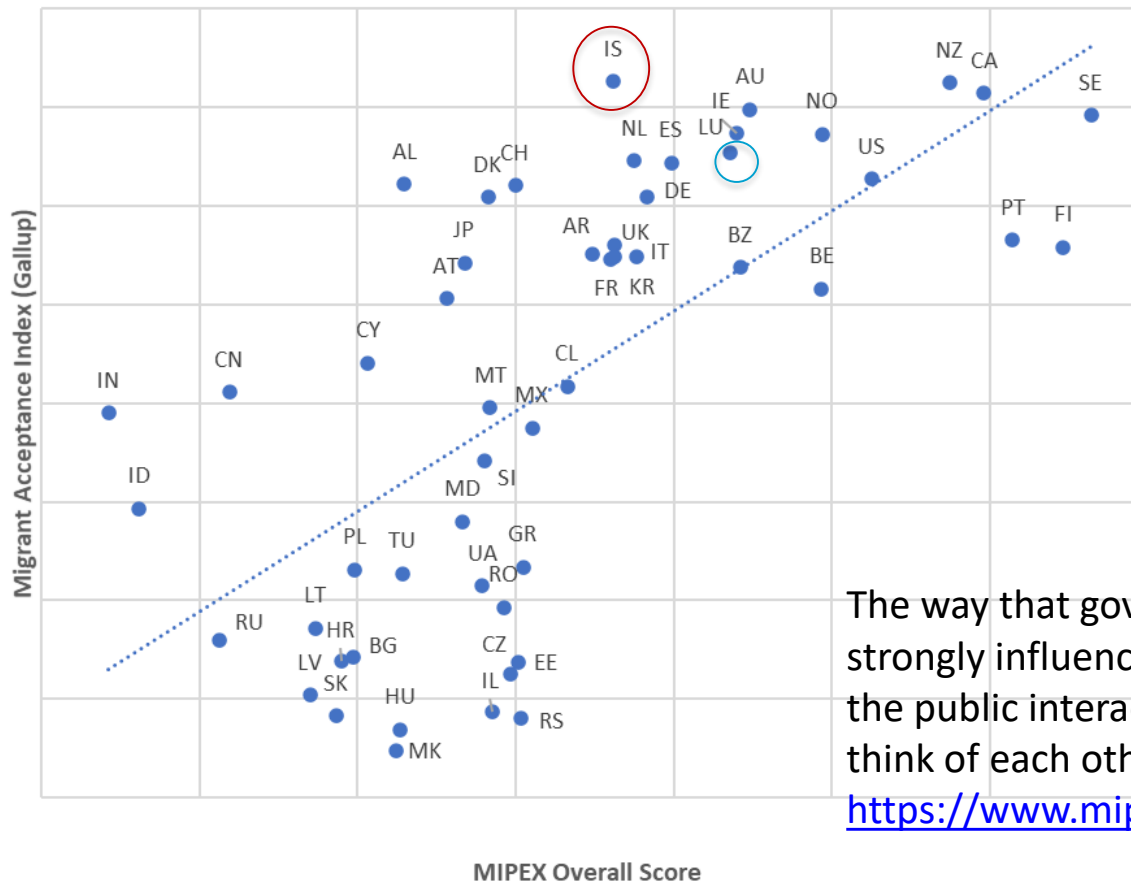


Source: Gouvernement.lu

# Link between integration policies & public attitudes

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## Strong link between integration policies & public attitudes



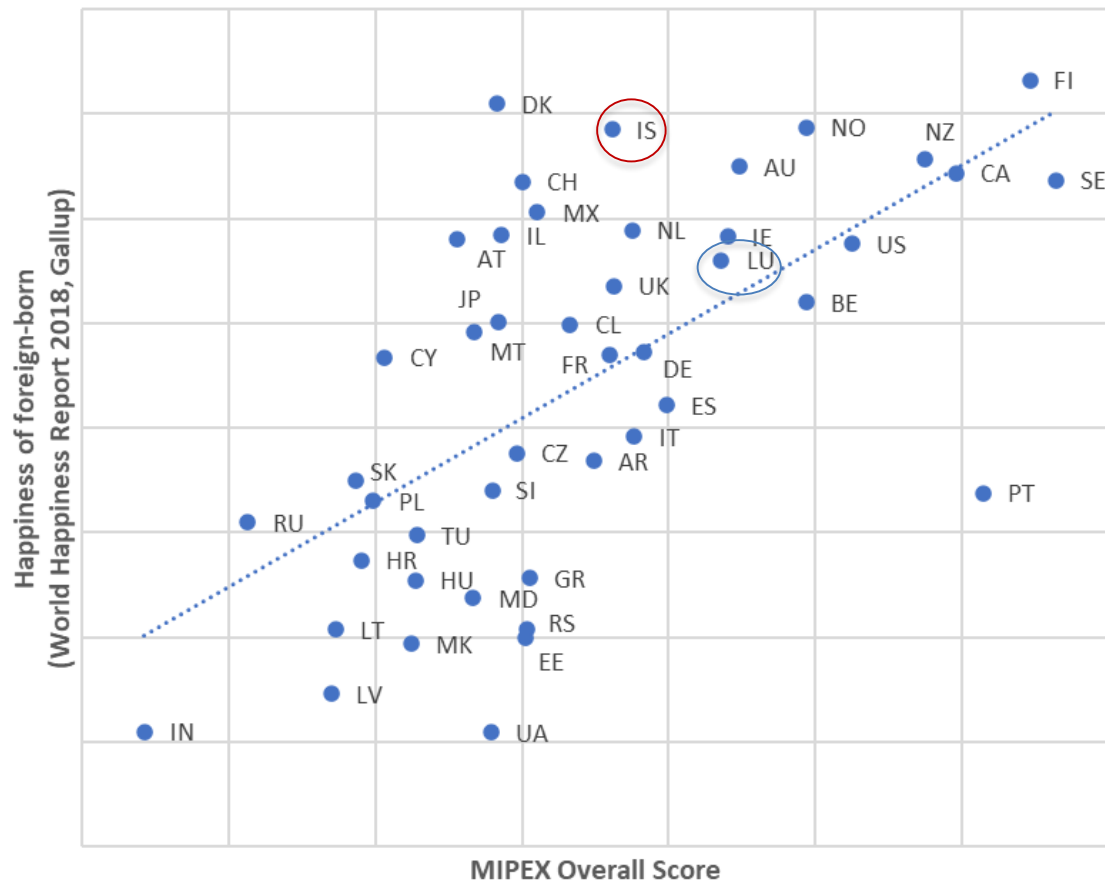
The way that governments treat immigrants strongly influences how well immigrants and the public interact with each other and think of each other.

<https://www.mipex.eu/key-findings>

# Link between integration policies and immigrant happiness

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Strong links between Integration policies & immigrants' happiness



# Conclusions

# Concluding comments:

- Aim: Need to create a „**virtuous circle**“ of integration
  - that promotes openness and interaction.
  - Immigrants and the public are more likely to interact with and think of each other as equals
  - Note: Immigrants – heterogeneous group (individuals!) with different needs, aspirations and hopes.
- **Small states** – perception of vulnerability and resulting policy emphasis may be in a better position to set the framework conditions for this virtuous cycle
- Small states – opportunity to learn from each other – similar functioning of small states
- Importance of research: *Inclusive Societies* project
  - Evidence for decisions making
  - Identifies gaps of knowledge -> guiding future research => virtuous circle.

