

UNIT 2: Changing the place where we live

Activity 2.2 MIGRATION - Greek PERSPECTIVE

Materials required: see below

Grouping: 

1. You are going to work in small groups. Each group (2-3 pupils) will get a different text to read. Together, find answers to the questions above the text. After you finish, you will tell the class about your text in English. The questions and answers will help you prepare your presentation later.
2. Each group presents briefly the information found in the texts to the whole class. If there is time discuss with your classmates about the information you got to know and compare to what was discussed in previous tasks.

Worksheet 2.2.1

Questions:

How many immigrants are in Greece today?

.....

Which countries do the immigrants come from?

.....

How does immigration in Greece look like after 1990s?

.....

Text:

IMMIGRATION TO GREECE

Released: 11/ 8/ 2022, 14:37, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_Greece

Immigration to Greece percentage of foreign populations in Greece is 7.1% in proportion to the total population of the country. Moreover, between 9 and 11% of the registered Greek labor force of 4.4 million are foreigners. Migrants additionally make up 25% of wage and salary earners. As of 2012, Albanian migrants constitute some 55–60% or more of the immigrant population. More recent immigrant groups, from the mid-1990s on, consist of Asian nationalities—especially Pakistani and Bangladeshi—with more recent political asylum and/or illegal migration flows through Turkey of Afghans, Iraqis, Syrians and others. Since the 1990s, increases in such flows have led to the emergence of immigration as an increasingly

important political issue in Greece. [...] While the Greek government has made some changes in immigration policy, immigration reform remains a low priority. In 2015, arrivals of refugees by sea have increased dramatically in Greece mainly due to the ongoing Syrian Civil War. There were 856,723 arrivals by sea in Greece, an almost fivefold increase to the same period of 2014. An estimated 8% of the arrivals applied for asylum in Greece, with others hoping to find asylum in Northern European countries. On 13 August 2019, 650 migrants arrived on sixteen boats in Greece for the first time in such mass since 2016. As a result, the government decided to increase border patrols and deportations to control the sudden migrant influx.

Worksheet 2.2.2

Questions:

In which sectors are Albanians employed in Greece?

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In which sector are Romanians mainly employed in Greece currently?

.....

How has a gender shift in the immigrant group composition influenced the primary sector of employment for Georgians?

.....

Text:

IMMIGRANTS IN GREECE: CHARACTERISTICS AND ISSUES OF REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION -Employment by economic sector

Released: 11/ 8/ 2022 14:55, author: Martin Baldwin-Edwards

The only sources of data for comparison of sectoral employment of immigrants are the Census 2001 and recent LFS data. [...] Assuming that the LFS sampling is good enough for comparison with the Census data, we can make the following observations:

Albanians

Decrease of 50% in agriculture, increases of 15% in construction, 40% in hotels/restaurants, 20% in households. The construction sector, which was always the largest, has increased in importance.

Bulgarians

Decrease of 40% in agriculture, increases of 80% in construction, 40% in households, Household employment is now the primary employment for Bulgarians.

Romanians

Decrease of 80% in agriculture, increases of 100% in hotels/restaurants, 100% real estate, 60% households. Construction is now the single biggest sector, previously equal with agriculture.

Georgians

Serious data problem with comparisons, probably through award of Greek citizenship such that different communities sampled in 2001 and 2006. Decreases in real estate, agriculture and manufacturing, increases of 100% in wholesale and retail, and 40% in households. Primary sector of employment is households, previously was construction: this actually suggests a gender shift in the immigrant group composition, as mainly women work in the household sector and men in construction.

Russians

Serious data problem with comparisons, probably through award of Greek citizenship such that different communities sampled in 2001 and 2006. Sectors of agriculture, education, healthcare, community services have all vanished in the 2006 data. Real estate declined by 80%. Increases of 120% in hotels and restaurants, 20% in construction. The primary sector of employment is hotels and restaurants, followed by construction, in 2006.

Worksheet 2.2.3**Questions:**

Why did two important waves of emigration take place in Greece?

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Why did the first wave of emigration happen?

.....

Why did the second wave of emigration happen?

.....

How many Greeks migrated among the second wave and where did they migrate?

.....

Text:**GREECE: A HISTORY OF MIGRATION**

Released: 11/ 08/ 2022, authors: Charalambos Kasimis, Chryssa Kassimi

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/greece-history-migration>

Greek History: Waves of Emigration

Two important waves of mass emigration took place after the formation of the modern Greek state in the early 1830s, one from the late 19th to the early 20th century, and another following World War II.

The first wave of emigration was spurred by the economic crisis of 1893 that followed the rapid fall in the

price of currants - the major export product of the country – in the international markets. In the period 1890-1914, almost a sixth of the population of Greece emigrated, mostly to the United States and Egypt. This emigration was, in a sense, encouraged by Greek authorities, who saw remittances as helping to improve the balance of payments of the Greek economy. The lasting effect on Greece's national consciousness was the expansion of the notion of "Hellenism" and "Hellenic diaspora" to the "New World."

Following World War II, the countries of Southern Europe, Greece among them, were the main contributors to migration to the industrialized nations of Northern Europe. However, the oil crises of 1973 and 1980 caused economic uncertainty and a sharp fall in the demand for labor, which in turn led northern states to introduce restrictive immigration policies. As these countries became less welcoming to their former invitees, return migration to Greece soon followed.

More than one million Greeks migrated in this second wave, which mainly fell between 1950 and 1974. Most emigrated to Western Europe, the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Economic and political reasons often motivated their move, both connected with the consequences of a 1946-1949 civil war and the 1967-1974 period of military junta rule that followed. Official statistics show that in the period 1955-1973 Germany absorbed 603,300 Greek migrants, Australia 170,700, the U.S. 124,000, and Canada 80,200. The majority of these emigrants came from rural areas, and they supplied both the national and international labor markets.

Worksheet 2.2.4

Questions:

Which levels of education hold migrants in Greece?

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Which nationality has the lowest level of education and which the highest?

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In which sectors are mainly immigrants employed?

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In which sectors do immigrants play a structural role?

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Text:

GREECE: A HISTORY OF MIGRATION

Released: 11/ 08/ 2022, authors: Charalambos Kasimis, Chryssa Kassimi

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/greece-history-migration>

Education and Workforce Participation

Nearly one-half of the migrants have secondary education (including technical-skill schools) and one-third have either completed or acquired primary school education. Almost one-tenth have higher education. A qualitative analysis of the educational levels of the various nationalities shows that, comparatively speaking, Albanians have the lowest level of education and former Soviet citizens the highest. In terms of higher education, females have the largest share of the total, while males appear to predominate in all other educational categories.

Immigrants are almost exclusively (90 percent) engaged in wage work and, to a much lesser extent, are self-employed (6.5 percent). Most of the jobs are non-skilled, manual work well below the immigrants' level of education and qualifications.

According to the 2001 census data, the majority of immigrants (54 percent) enter Greece for work. Bulgarians and Romanians are the nationalities that most often cite employment as the most important reason for immigrating to Greece. Immigrants are mainly employed in construction (24.5 percent), "other services," meaning mostly domestic work (20.5 percent), agriculture (17.5 percent), and "commerce, hotels, and restaurants" (15.7 percent).

Because of the size of their presence in the total immigrant population, Albanians dominate in all sectors. Within the Albanian nationality, however, construction absorbs the highest percentage (32 percent), followed by agriculture (21 percent), and then "other services" (15 percent). In contrast, Bulgarians are mostly occupied in agriculture (33 percent) and "other services" (29 percent).

In the construction sector, immigrants currently provide a quarter of the wage labor, and in agriculture, a fifth of the total labor expended (almost 90 percent of the non-family wage labor). Immigrants play an important structural role in both sectors.

Assessment: self-assessment.

Pupils can check their answers against the answers provided. After they finish, they will tell the rest of the class about the content of their text in English. The comprehension questions and pupils' answers help them prepare their presentations. The minimum requirements for the short oral presentation are: title; main idea, 3 questions and answers.

Notes for the teacher:

For the reading activity, the teacher should decide about the language¹: either English (L2) or the pupils' home language(s) (L1). This will depend on the pupils' level.² Even if the pupils read in L1, they should answer the questions in L2 and present the text in L2.

¹ This is the English version of the 4 texts based on the Greek content. The teacher should adapt the texts in the desirable language and content depending on the language and pace of instruction.

² Reading in L1 will require the translation of the texts into the language of instruction.

Timing: Reading, answering questions, preparing presentations - 30 minutes

Presentations -15 minutes

References:

All the texts are elicited from the sites below. The language of the texts is authentic; it was not simplified in any way.

Worksheet 2.2.1:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_Greece

Worksheet 2.2.2:

https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/library-document/immigrants-greece-characteristics-and-issues-regional-distribution_en

Worksheets 2.2.3 and 2.2.4

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/greece-history-migration>