The European migrant crisis has seen the biggest movement of Refugees in Europe since the end of World War II. Over 1,000,000 migrants have crossed into Europe in 2015 seeking asylum. The response from EU leaders could not be more different with Angela Merkel the German Prime Minister favouring taking in refugees while other East European leaders are saying that the crisis is a “German problem”. Ireland has accepted 4000 refugees and the settlement program has begun in the Towns and Cities around Ireland. How Europe responds to this crisis will shape the European Union which we live in for our generation and therefore it deserves our attention and understanding. It is Irelands own unique experience of emigration that will have a significant impact on how well these refugees will integrate into Irish Society and this forms the basis of the project.

Project Objective
This project is setting out to show that Irish people have a positive attitude towards Migrants despite the commonly held perception that people do not want migrants settled here. In addition, we set out to prove that people who have a personal experience of family emigration are more favourable to migrants to a statistical significance degree. In addition we will prove that people who have a personal experience of family emigration are also more favourable and understanding towards migrants across a whole range of related topics from accommodation, state benefits, working entitlements to eventual full Irish citizenship.

Project Research
The migrant crisis in Europe began in the Arab Spring risings of 2009 and the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most Middle Eastern countries are ruled either by Dictators, Kings or a democracy based upon only one political party. To complicate issues further, these groups in power tend to be based on either religious beliefs or made up of only one ethnic group. This has led to persecution of whole groups within these countries and therefore wide unrest. This unrest has led to a number of civil wars in different regions, the worst being in Syria. The ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are caused by religious difference within Islam and have led to the creation of Islamic state in Syria and Iraq.

Experimental Approach
The experimental approach includes a collection of reliable data to meet the primary objectives of the project.

General & Statistical Survey Data
The aim of the project was to conduct a survey to analyse Irish peoples attitudes to the Migrant crisis and its potential impact on Irish Society. This meant constructing a survey with general personal information being outlined in the first part and then questions gathering peoples opinions across a whole range of relevant topics on Migrant issues. The survey was constructed to ensure that there was no bias questions. This analysis was done by a mentor with a long history of assessing surveys. The time that the survey would take to complete was 3.5 minutes aiming at the most suitable set up. An initial survey was conducted of approx. 50 people. The responses from this survey were then used to clarify and change any unclear questions to obtain data that could be used to get meaningful results.

The 16 survey questions would be statistically analysed under 5 general headings.


Statistical Survey Results Summary

The 16 survey questions were statistically analysed under 5 general headings.

- 77% of Irish people agreed to accepting Migrants into Ireland whereas 15% who disagreed and 8% with a neutral/no opinion.
- 1077 Surveys were completed, which gives us an overall margin of error of 3%.
- 51% male and 49% were women surveyed.
- Surveys completed captured a broad range of demographic information.
- 45% of Irish people think we should accept all migrants, (Economic/Refugee) rising to over 60%, while including those who think we should accept refugees fleeing persecution.
- The average number of migrants that should be permitted into Ireland is 2770 (very close to government figure of 4000). 11% of people think we should accept more than 10%
- 62% of people think that migrants should be settled in the community and not in refugee centres.
- 45% of people think that migrants should be allowed to become full Irish citizens.
- 53% are concerned about perceived militant threats from Migrants, with 21% not concerned.
- 43% have concern about integration of Migrants into the community with 33% not concerned.
- The wearing of Religious clothing is a very divisive issue whether to ban it or not is a matter of individual vs. social concerns.
- The entitlement to social welfare benefits again was a very divisive issue with 39% agreeing and 41% disagreeing with the given benefits towards Migrants.
- People were more favourable about Migrants working in the community with 61% in agreement.
- 34% of the people surveyed had emigrated to work or travel.
- 66% of the people surveyed had family members emigrated.
- 24% of People emigrated to Australia, 28% to the UK, 2% to the USA, 11% to Europe with the remaining being spread across the globe. 3% of people had emigrated to Ireland.

On the question of whether to accept migrants here in Ireland or not there is a statistically significant difference between people depending on whether they have experienced emigration.

The data here is very convincing. If you have experienced emigration in your family then you were a lot more favourable towards accepting migrants into Ireland.

Survey Results by Emigration Experience

With regards to Migrant type, (Economic or Refugee). If you have experienced emigration in your family there then is again a favourable statistical significant difference for that group accepting all types of Migrants to those whose family have not experienced emigration.

Would regards to where Migrants being accommodated if you have experienced emigration in your family there is a statistical difference for having migrants being accommodated in the community. People whose family did experience migration have a higher % strongly agree figure at 25% compared to 12%

Survey Irish Peoples Attitudes to the Migrant Crisis Conclusion

The conclusions of the surveys are very positive.
- Three out of four Irish people want to help Migrants fleeing persecution to settle and live here in Ireland.
- The majority of people want refugees settled in the community. This is probably because the current refugee centres, (direct provision centres) is perceived not to have worked.
- The majority of people want the refugees to work and become full citizens of Ireland.
- There is more concern with regards to Migrants amongst certain groups especially the 60+, socially more vulnerable groups and rural populations.
- These concerns may be due to a fear that housing and benefits will be impacted by migrants arriving in the country, fear of change and also around religious concerns.
- If you’re family has experienced emigration then you have a more positive attitude towards helping migrants across a wide range of issues to a statistical significant degree.

Statistical Analysis of the Migrant Crisis