Ethnosizing Immigrants

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in:

NEW IZA STUDY:
MEASURING IMMIGRANTS' SUCCESS BY FOCUSING ON THE EFFECTS OF ETHNIC IDENTITY

A recent IZA study, authored by IZA experts Amelie F. Constant, Klaus F. Zimmermann and Liliya Gataullina, sheds new light on the role of ethnicity within the process of immigrants' absorption in the host country. The study develops the "ethnosizer", a new measure of the intensity of a person's ethnic identity, using information on language, culture, societal interaction, history of migration, and ethnic self-identification.

A two-dimensional version classifies immigrants into four states: integration, assimilation, separation, and marginalization. Based on the German Socio-economic Panel for 2001, the analysis finds that young migrants are assimilated or integrated the most. While Muslims and Christians do not integrate, both assimilate the best. Immigrants with college in the home country are less prone to separation. In terms of integration and assimilation, having some schooling is less favorable than no schooling at all. While ex-Yugoslavs assimilate more, Greeks, Italians and Spaniards do not differ from Turks.