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Let's stay in touch: Social Connectedness and Immigration to Germany

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Robert Bosch Stiftung

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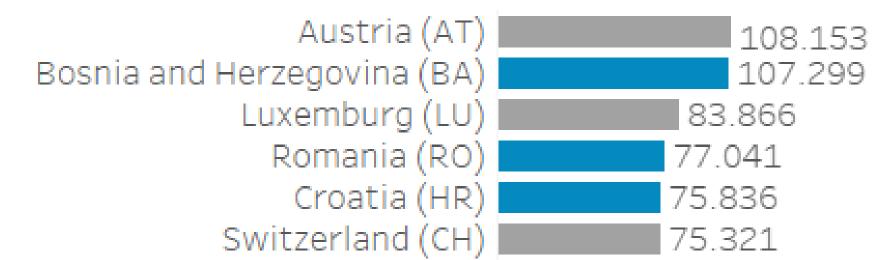
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SCI 2020 for the main countries of origin



Our analysis shows that the Facebook Social Connectedness Index (SCI) correlates with migration to Germany: the higher the **migration rate** from a particular country to Germany, the higher the number of Facebook connections between users in Germany and users in that country and vice versa. The SCI can therefore serve as a proxy indicator and potentially a **predictor for current migration developments**.

In graph 1 the blue trendline shows the 15 countries with the highest immigration rate. The grey trendline shows the other countries with lower immigration rates. The trend for countries with low immigration rates follows a

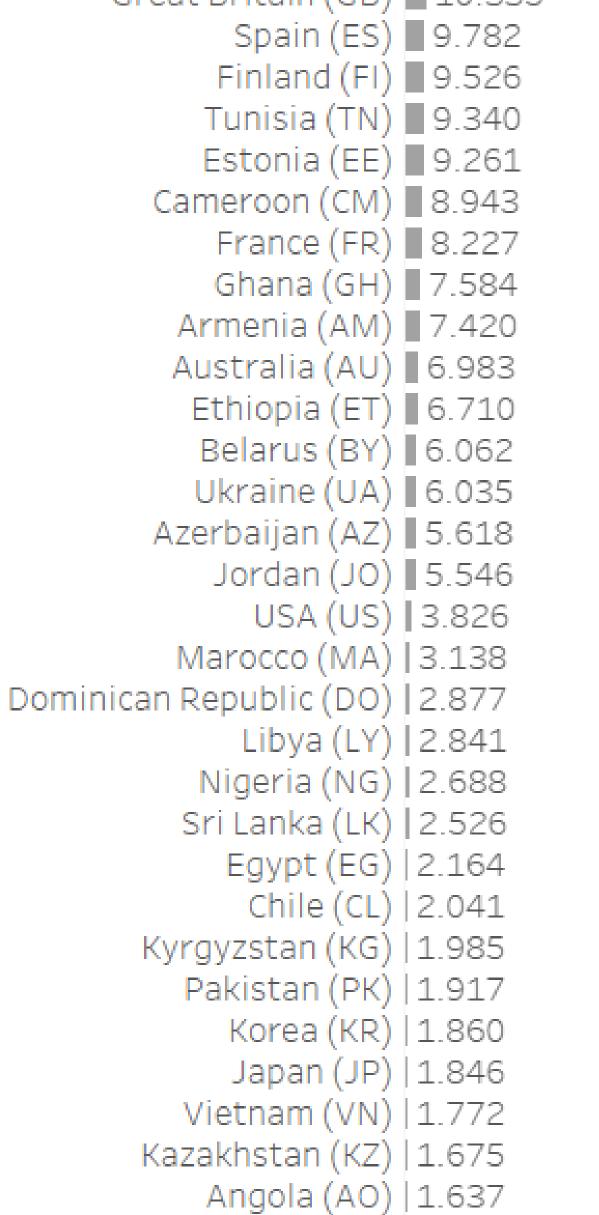
Bulgaria (BG)	61.94
Serbia (RS)	56.056
Montenegro (ME)	51.940
Moldova (MD)	43.840
Greece (GR)	41.537
Albania (AL)	37.629
Gambia (GM)	36.854
Hungary (HU)	36.098
Poland (PL)	31.735
Slovenia (SI)	30.112
Netherlands (NL)	23.643
Lebanon (LB)	21.959
Malta (MT)	21.198
Latvia (LV)	20.623
Guinea (GN)	20.337
Cyprus (CY)	20.247
Italy (IT)	18.711
Sweden (SE)	17.977
Lithuania (LT)	17.023
Denmark (DK)	16.813
Belgium (BE)	15.785
Turkey (TR)	15.784
Portugal (PT)	14.953
Slovakia (SK)	13.633
Norway (NO)	13.333
Ireland (IE)	12.785
Georgia (GE)	11.591
Czech Republic (CZ)	11.225
Great Britain (GB)	10.335

similar pattern, except for AT, CH and LU, where German is widely spoken: these countries have a higher SCI despite a low immigration rate because of the shared language.

We also found a positive correlation between the SCI and the **employment rate** for countries with a high immigration rate to Germany (graph 2): a higher level of social connectedness between people in Germany and the countries of origin is associated with a higher employment rate for migrants in Germany from the corresponding country.

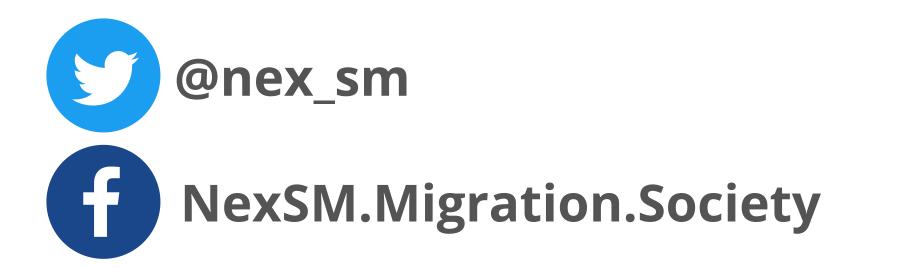


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Uzbekistan (UZ) 1.529 Thailand (TH) 1.473 DRC (CD) 1.443 Colombia (CO) 1.395 Brazil (BR) 1.382 Algeria (DZ) 1.278 South Africa (ZA) 1.143 Philippines (PH) 1.138 Peru (PE) 1.114 Mexico (MX) 887 India (IN) 640 South Africa (ID) 557

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15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 Employment Rate, %

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Social Connectedness Index - measure of the social connectedness between different geographies, based on relative probability that two individuals across two locations are friends with each other on Facebook.
 Immigation rate - net migration to Germany in relation to the population size in the country of origin.
 Employment rate - proportion of the working-age population in employment subject to social insurance contributions.

INTERACTIVE DATABASE ON TABLEAU PUBLIC:

DATA SOURCES

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