

Asylum and Migration

An increasing number of people in recent years have wanted to migrate to Europe either temporarily or permanently. These include asylum seekers, refugees, family members coming to join migrants already settled in the EU and labour migrant

International migration movements affect all member states. Many are also transit countries.

A pressing issue facing EU countries today is how to cope with large number of immigrants when there are no internal borders. Methods for dealing with migrants differ considerably from one European Union country to another. They can decide themselves whether to give asylum to people who claim to be persecuted in their home countries but the European Union has decided to have one overall asylum policy: to share the quotas across Europe and to put to an end to any cross-border disputes. The cornerstone of this policy will remain the right of third-country nationals to seek asylum.

There has been intensive co-operation and information sharing between Baltic Sea countries in the area of illegal immigration since 1997. An international expert group from Baltic Sea region border control co-operation countries meets regularly to decide on illegal immigration issues.

The tasks of this expert group are:

- consideration of joint operational measures in combating illegal immigration,
- organising exchange programs between the Baltic Sea countries.

Baltic countries are not interesting for illegal immigrants but they are used for transit on the way to Western Europe.

One of the most attractive countries for refugees is Britain but now Afghans and Iraqis applications are being rejected. The British government has already agreed with the Afghan government that they will start enforced returns of failed asylum seekers. But most failed asylum seekers don't leave the country because they are left to their own devices and disappear into the black economy. Some people think that they should not send the asylum seekers back, because the situation in their country is not safe.

B. Work in two groups.

Group A prepares arguments for immigrants and asylum seekers, Group B prepares the arguments against them.

First discuss the arguments in your group and write your ideas in the table below. Then take turns to present your arguments to the other group. While group A presents, group B fills in the 'for' side of the table and vice versa.

Asylum and Migration

FOR	AGAINST
Eg Asylum seekers are desperate women, men and children. You never know – you could be in their situation one day.	Eg There aren't enough jobs for local people. The immigrants come to our country and want to get a job too.

C HOME WORK Search on the Internet and find statistics about the situation with immigration and asylum seekers in your and in neighbour countries and prepare a mini-presentation on the topic.

Asylum and Migration

TEACHER'S NOTES

Procedure:

1. Ask Ss questions

What different ethnic groups live in your country?

Where have they come from and why?

What are the countries you would like to live?

Is the immigration an issue in your country?

2. Give Ss the worksheet with the text and ask them to read it.

3. Ask Ss: What are the main issues raised in the text?
What is your attitude to immigrants and asylum seekers?

4. Show the Ss the information about the values of Europeans on the transparency.

Ask Ss: Does the statistics contradict or support your ideas about immigrants and asylum seekers and the attitude of Europeans to them?

5. Divide the class into two groups and follow the instructions of the worksheet

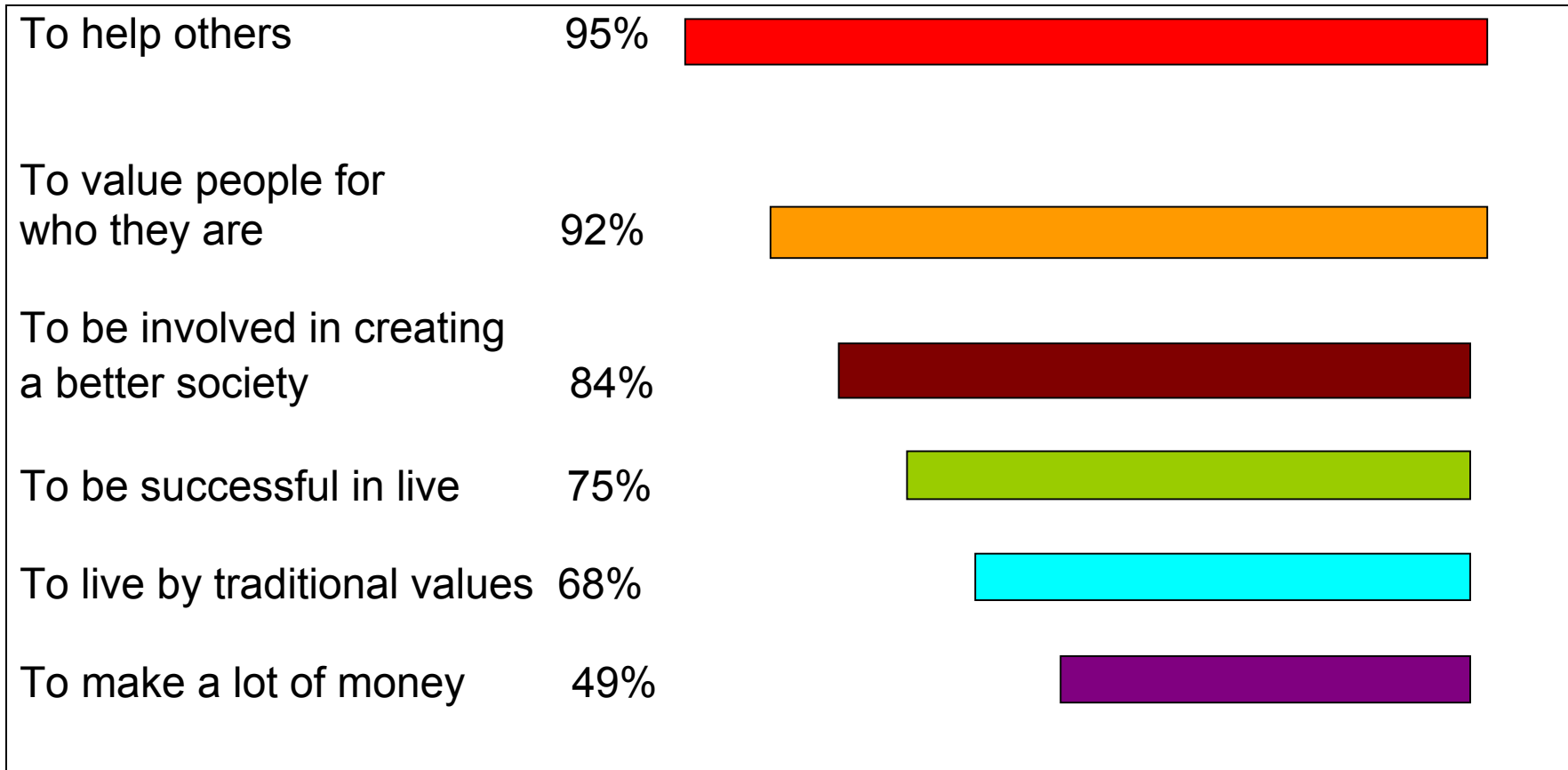
Ss come to consensus on their attitudes, draft a presentation and choose a peer, who presents their arguments to the whole class.

Ss take turns to present the arguments. While group A presents, group B fill in the 'for' side of the table or vice versa

6. HOME WORK: Ask Ss to search on the Internet and to find statistics about the situation with immigration and asylum seekers in their and in neighbour countries and prepare a mini-presentation.

Asylum and Migration

VALUES OF EUROPEANS



(Taken from 'How Europeans see themselves', 2001)