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**Naturalisation and Socioeconomic Integration:  
The Case of the Netherlands**

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## **Naturalisation and Socioeconomic Integration: The Case of the Netherlands**

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**Abstract:** This paper investigates Dutch immigrants' naturalisation decisions and how it affects their employment chances and wages in the Netherlands. The population under consideration consists mainly of refugees from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Somalia and former Yugoslavia, and a minority of immigrants from Turkey and Morocco. The data used come from the Dutch survey 'Social Position and Use of Public Utilities by Migrants' for the years 2002 and 2003. A multivariate analysis shows that higher educational levels and having obtained an education in the Netherlands positively affects naturalisation. In turn naturalisation is positively related to the job chances among immigrants and refugees. It is also positively related to wages among refugees, but not among Mediterranean immigrants who came to the Netherlands for various reasons.

## 1. Introduction

Since the middle of the last century the Netherlands has received an increasing number of immigrants, which has made it a net-immigration country since the 1960s. During the last two decades immigration in the Netherlands consists to a high degree of refugees.

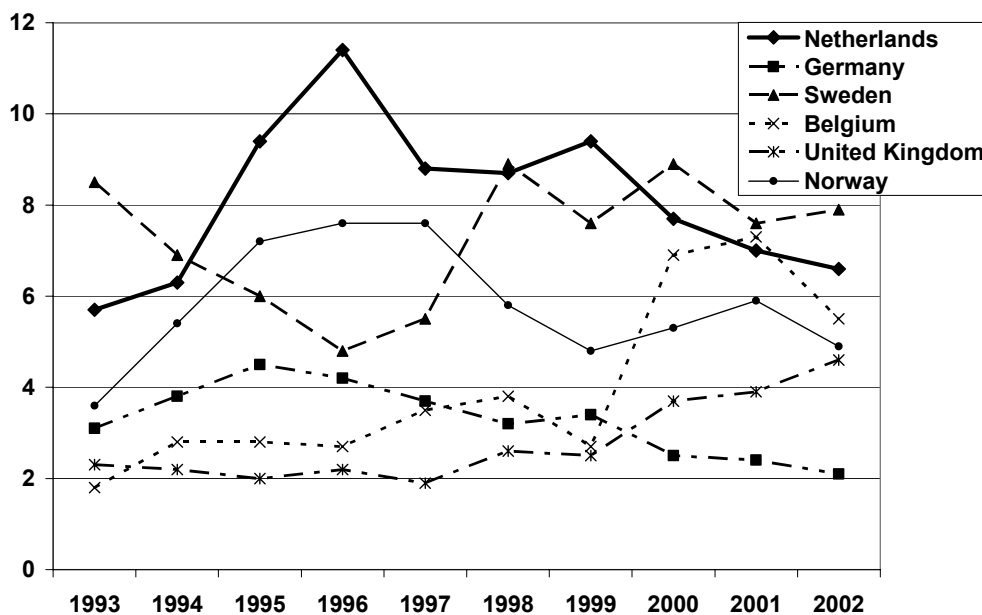
This immigration made the issue of naturalisation more actual, as it did in other EU countries where the number of naturalisations sharply increased during the 1990s. The Netherlands has a high number of immigrants relative to other EU countries. For instance, in 1997 360,000 people obtained another nationality in one of the EU countries. After France (84,000) and Germany (83,000), the Netherlands has the highest number of naturalisations (60,000), far ahead of Great-Britain (28,000), Sweden (25,000) and Belgium (22,000), for example. In 1997, France, Germany and the Netherlands accounted for two-thirds of the EU total number of naturalisations (Van der Erf 2000). Relative to the number of inhabitants that could have opted for naturalisation, the Netherlands had the highest percentage (almost 9%). Now Sweden comes next with 5.5%, long before e.g. France (1.5%) and Germany (1.1%) (ibid:2).

In general the extent to which naturalisation is requested, depends both on the constitutional position of 'non-nationals' and on the opportunity a country offers to obtain its legal citizenship. In connection to the constitutional position one can isolate several features including the *jus sanguinis* or *jus soli* framework (the latter applies in the Netherlands), the residence right, the right to vote and to be voted in all elections and not just in local elections, and unrestricted movement within the EU. Ascension to citizenship depends among other things on individual characteristics like age, duration of legal residence, conduct, degree of integration in the receiving country, and the maintenance of the original nationality. In particular, the latter condition affected naturalisation in the Netherlands. For a long time those who opted for Dutch citizenship lost their original nationality unless it was prevented by legislation on nationality in the country of origin (as in the case of Morocco). However, between 1992 and 1997 the general requirement was applied with more flexibility in advance of a change in the law proposed by the government.

Since the new citizenship law was not accepted by the Dutch Parliament, the rules reverted to the strict policy of single citizenship after October 1997.

The effect of the more flexible application of the citizenship act shows clearly in the figures on naturalisation in the beginning of the 1990s. After a remarkable rise especially since 1994, the number of naturalisations diminishes after 1996.

**Figure 1, Naturalisation in percent of foreign population for selected European Countries**



Source: SOPEMI, 2004.

At the end of the 1990s the decrease of naturalisations as a consequence of a more strict application of the rules on dual citizenship was somewhat compensated by the increased number of naturalisations among refugees who arrived in the Netherlands since the early 1990s, in particular from former Yugoslavia and Somalia. Mainly because of such refugee migration the number of naturalisations almost doubled in EU countries during the years 1990-1997. Next to the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany were above the EU average, while France and especially Great-Britain remained below this average. Although refugee immigration clearly affected the number of naturalisations and accounted for 45% of all naturalisations in the Netherlands in 1998, the non-refugees – Turks (23%) and Moroccans (19%) – still obtain the highest rates by country of origin (Van der Erf 2000). For this reason we will also include these immigrant groups in our analysis.

Given immigrant integration problems, the Dutch government opted for a more restrictive migration and naturalisation policy at the beginning of the new century. At the moment there are two procedures for obtaining Dutch nationality. The first is the option procedure, which is meant for those of age (a) who were born in the Netherlands and have lived there (or in the Dutch Antilles or Aruba) continuously since birth or for at least three years if the person was stateless, or (b) who have legally

lived there since age 4 or (c) who are former Dutch citizens and have lived there for at least one year on the basis of a permanent residence permit or a residence permit for a non-temporary residence objective, or (d) who have been married to a Dutch national for at least three years and have legally lived there for an uninterrupted period of at least 15 years, or (e) who are 65 or over and have legally lived there for an uninterrupted period of at least 15 years. The option procedure is also applicable to minors who are acknowledged by a Dutch citizen and have been cared for and brought up by this Dutch citizen for an uninterrupted period of at least three years.<sup>1</sup>

A person is eligible for *naturalisation* if he or she has had a residence permit and in addition meets all the following conditions: (a) being of age, (b) having lived in the Netherlands, the Dutch Antilles or Aruba for an uninterrupted period of 5 years with a valid residence permit, (c) has sufficiently integrated in Dutch society and is able to read, write, speak and understand Dutch, all of which should be proven by taking a naturalisation test,<sup>2</sup> (d) has no record of a custodial sentence or a substantial monetary fine, and (e) is prepared to forgo his or her current nationality. If the immigrant does not give up his or her current nationality, Dutch nationality ‘may be’ revoked. There are, however, several exceptions to giving up the current nationality. This still has to do with legislation on nationality in the country of origin, or with the immigrant’s inability to contact the authorities in the country of which the immigrant is a national.<sup>3</sup>

If we assume that the decision to acquire another nationality is mainly based on rational calculations, one should know the net balance of advantages and disadvantages of naturalisation to fully understand the phenomenon. While losing the original nationality often can be considered as the most important disadvantage, the first positive effect of becoming a Dutch citizen is the possibility to obtain a Dutch passport and therefore to travel freely within the EU. The second consequence is that the immigrant is entitled to vote in general elections.<sup>4</sup> In relation to the labour market the most important consequence probably is that those with Dutch nationality are no longer considered foreign nationals. This formally increases job chances in, for example, the civil service, the police, the justice

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<sup>1</sup> The same condition applies to minors who are under the joint custody of a non-Dutch father or mother and spouse is a Dutch citizen.

<sup>2</sup> An exemption will be made for those who have successfully completed an integration course (at NT2-level 2) or have attained another diploma. As of 15 March 2006 a civic integration examination abroad was introduced. As of this date migrants wishing to settle in the Netherlands for, in particular, the purposes of marrying or forming a relationship will be required to take the examination. Besides, their partner’s income should be at least 120% of the minimum-wage.

<sup>3</sup> Other exceptions apply to cases in which the state of which the immigrant is a national, is not recognised by the Netherlands or in which the immigrant is originally an Italian or French national and is part of one of the target groups of the so-called Second Protocol.

<sup>4</sup> Non-EU legal inhabitants of the Netherlands without Dutch nationality are only entitled to vote and seek office in municipal elections.

system and the military, which are only open to Dutch nationals. For this reason one can expect improved job chances for those who have acquired naturalisation.

Although an individual cost/benefit-analysis offers an interesting perspective to study the naturalisation decision, Yang (1994:450) argues that this is not the starting point of most studies on naturalisation. Much of the existing research focuses on the influence of immigrants' integration into the receiving country on their acquirement of naturalisation. In relation to this, Yang distinguishes two research traditions. The first one stresses the role of socioeconomic achievements in the naturalisation process. The second tradition emphasizes the influence of immigrants' cultural adaptation to the host society as well as his or her demographic characteristics. Yang notices that, despite their differences, both research traditions use immigrants' characteristics as *predictors* of their naturalisation and both view naturalisation as an outcome of immigrants' successful integration into the receiving country, be it on different dimensions of integration.

A shortcoming of both traditions is the omission of a cost/benefit-analysis to predict naturalisation. As stated before, the costs could be related to giving up the original nationality, which means losing the status of citizenship in the country of origin. This also implies losing Dutch remigration facilities (such as a return premium), and can imply the loss of a claim on inheritance or real estate in the country of origin. Furthermore, the costs may include the time and money invested in Dutch language courses and tests before the immigrant is allowed to start the naturalisation procedure. Looking at the aforementioned direct benefits of naturalisation, in particular in relation to the labour market, we could turn around the causal relation between socioeconomic status and naturalisation. Instead of being the result of immigrants' socioeconomic integration, naturalisation might be the cause of it. It is the purpose of this chapter to shed some light on this relationship in the context of the Netherlands. In other words, we hope to find an answer to two research questions, viz.: (1) Which factors may be considered as causes of naturalisation?, and (2) Has naturalisation positive effects on the job chances and earnings of immigrants, and therefore on their socioeconomic status?<sup>5</sup>

In the Netherlands, research on immigrants' labour market integration is extensive. The causes and consequences of naturalisation on the contrary have been rarely studied from an economic perspective. Only Bevelander and Veenman (2005) have elaborated on the relationship between naturalisation and the socioeconomic integration of Turks and Moroccans. In a multivariate analysis

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<sup>5</sup> The extent to which rational calculations of costs and benefits determine the naturalisation decision will vary across individuals. This variation can explain individual differences in the request to naturalise. Unfortunately, we do not have data that contain information on the perceived costs and benefits. We are therefore not able to study the effects of these factors directly, but will try to involve these factors in our explanation of naturalisation.



they found only a weak relation between cultural integration and naturalisation. Controlling for various individual characteristics, they show that age, age at migration and education influences the propensity of naturalisation among Turkish and Moroccan immigrants. In addition, gender affects the likelihood of obtaining Dutch citizenship. Turkish and Moroccan women who score high on a 'modernisation' scale and Moroccan women who identify themselves as 'Dutch', have a significantly higher probability to naturalise.

## **2. Stylized facts**

With the exception of 1967, the Netherlands has been a net-immigration country since the 1960s. From this time up to the 1990s, immigration was dominated by four immigrant groups, and still the majority, about 70 percent of the immigrants and their descendents, come from Turkey and Morocco (the Mediterraneans), and from Suriname and the Dutch Antilles (the Caribbeans). The latter were or still are Dutch colonies and therefore most Surinamese immigrants and all Antilleans have Dutch nationality. We therefore exclude the latter and focus on the migration history and naturalisation rate of Turks and Moroccans. In the 1990s, however, the Dutch immigration scene changed as refugee flows started to dominate. For this reason we will also describe the migration history and naturalisation rate of the five largest refugee groups in the Netherlands: the Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians, former Yugoslavs and Somalis.

The first immigrants from Turkey arrived in the beginning of the 1960s via Germany and Belgium, relieving the unskilled and low-skilled labour shortage in the Netherlands. The migration movement was more institutionalized in 1964 when a labour recruitment agreement between the Netherlands and Turkey was entered. The number of Turkish labour migrants, mainly target earners, increased and rapidly peaked in the early 1970s. At the end of 1973 labour market recruitment came to an end when Turks were no longer admitted as labour migrants. This, however, did not diminish the number of immigrants from Turkey to the Netherlands given increased family reunification. Moreover, the rise in immigration since the middle of the 1980s is a result of the children of the labour migrants marrying brides and bridegrooms from Turkey. In addition, since the 1970s a number of Turkish refugees for religious or political reasons entered the Netherlands. The number of Turks in the Netherlands is around 351,000 in 2004, 45 percent of them are born in the Netherlands.

Since the middle of the 1960s immigration from Morocco to the Netherlands consisted of 3,000 individuals annually. Until the first oil crisis in 1973, mostly men with poor educational background who were recruited through the agency of the Moroccan government, immigrated and

thereby alleviated the growing need of low-skilled workers in the Dutch industry. Initially most Moroccans did unskilled work in cleaning companies and in the metal, timber and food industries. The dominant idea was that their stay in the Netherlands would only be temporary, since many of them would like to return and start their own business at home with the savings derived from working in the Netherlands. However, since 1973 when labour recruitment was stopped by the Dutch government, family reunification of women and children became the primary form of immigration. The majority of the Moroccan immigrants came from the Rif area, which is one of the more traditional parts of the country. This explains why their educational level was low and why they were little prepared to participate in the Dutch society. Family reunification migration reached its peak in the first half of the 1980s, while at the same time a third kind of migration started, i.e. marriage migration. The educational background of these recent immigrants is higher than that of earlier Moroccan immigrants. Approximately 306,000 Moroccans lived in the Netherlands in the year 2004. Almost 46 percent of them belong to the second generation.

Immigrants from Afghanistan came mainly during the 1990s and sought asylum in the Netherlands as a consequence of war. From 1994 to 2002, asylum seekers from Afghanistan were given a residence permit without further scrutiny. Since 2002 refugee applications by individuals from Afghanistan are examined individually. The Afghan population in the Netherlands is relatively young and less educated than the Dutch population. The low economic integration of this group is also due to the relatively short stay in the Netherlands. In 2004 36,043 individuals from Afghanistan and their children lived in the Netherlands. The so called 'second generation' holds 11 percent of the total Afghan population in the Netherlands.

Refugees from Iraq came mainly in the second half of the 1990s and sought asylum due to political reasons and war. They came partly as quota refugees sent by UNHCR and partly as spontaneous refugees as well as reunified family members. The Iraqi population in the Netherlands increased by seven times between 1996 and 2004. It is a young immigrant group, like the Afghan population. The Iraqis in the Netherlands are overrepresented in lower educational categories compared to Dutch natives and only 45 percent of the population in the ages 15-64 are gainfully employed. In the population registers of 2004 42,931 persons with an Iraqi background can be found, and 16 percent of them belong to the 'second generation.'

Iranians started to come in the 1980s after the 'Islamic revolution' in 1979. The war with Iraq also increased the number that fled Iran. Those who were not accepted as refugees could often stay on conditional residence permits. Since 1995 a more restrictive asylum led to a decrease in asylum seekers from Iran with the exception of the year 2000. In comparison with the Dutch natives, Iranians

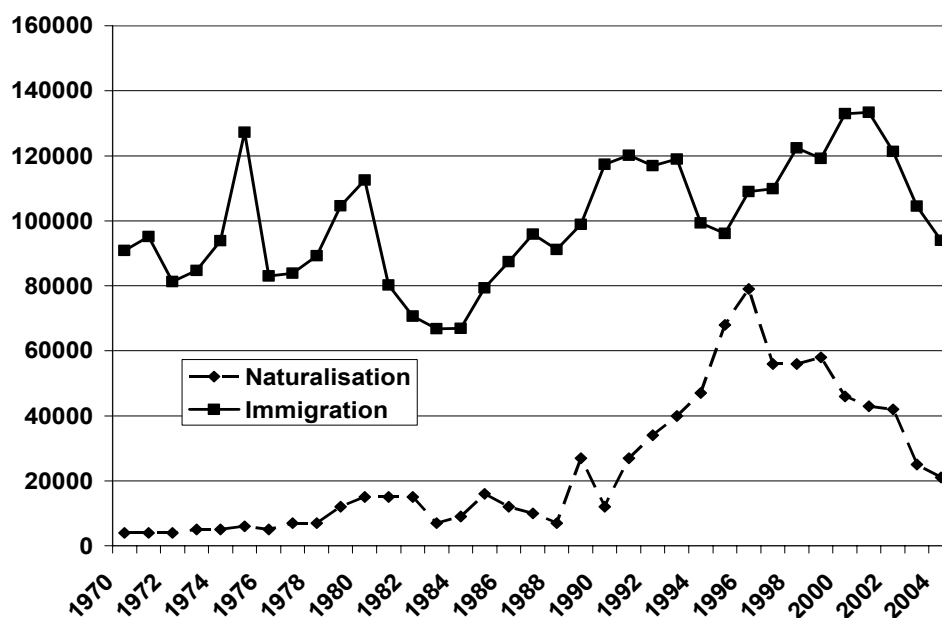
in the Netherlands have a higher educational profile with more individuals having obtained university level education. This fact, however, has not yet been translated into high labour participation. The total number of Iranians and their descendants in the Netherlands was 28,438 in 2004, with the 'second generation' accounting for 16 percent of this number.

The migration background for former Yugoslavs in the Netherlands is diverse. This group consists of both earlier labour migrants who came to the Netherlands in the 1960s and 1970s due to labour shortages, and refugees from different parts of the former Yugoslavian republic due to the civil war in the early 1990s. In 2004, 76,346 individuals with roots in former Yugoslavia were living in the Netherlands with the second generation of this group constituting 28 percent. The educational profile of the group is somewhat lower than for Dutch natives and the labour participation of both males and females is just below that of natives.

The Somali immigration to the Netherlands grew in number in the 1990s due to the civil war in Somalia. The more restrictive asylum application procedure in 1995 led to a decrease in the number of asylum requests in the following years. A relatively large part of the asylum seekers consists of minors, which implies that the Somali population is relatively young. The total number of Somalis in the Netherlands is 25,001 in 2004 of which 31 percent belongs to the second generation. The Somali group in the Netherlands has a lower educational level and a labour force participation of just 41 percent.

In Figure 2 we plot both the number of immigrants to the Netherlands and the number of naturalisations per year since 1970. It shows that the number of naturalisations increased strongly since the beginning of the 1990s up to 1997. Since then the number has been dropping, but it still is higher than before the 1980s.

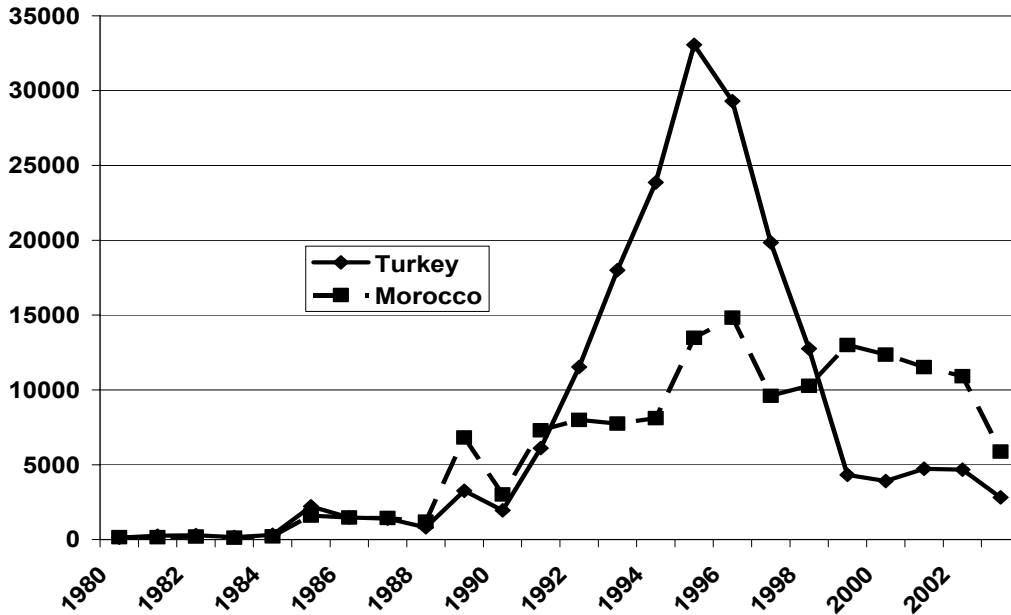
**Figure 2: Total number of naturalisations and number of immigrants, 1970-2004.**



Source: Statline, Statistics Netherlands.

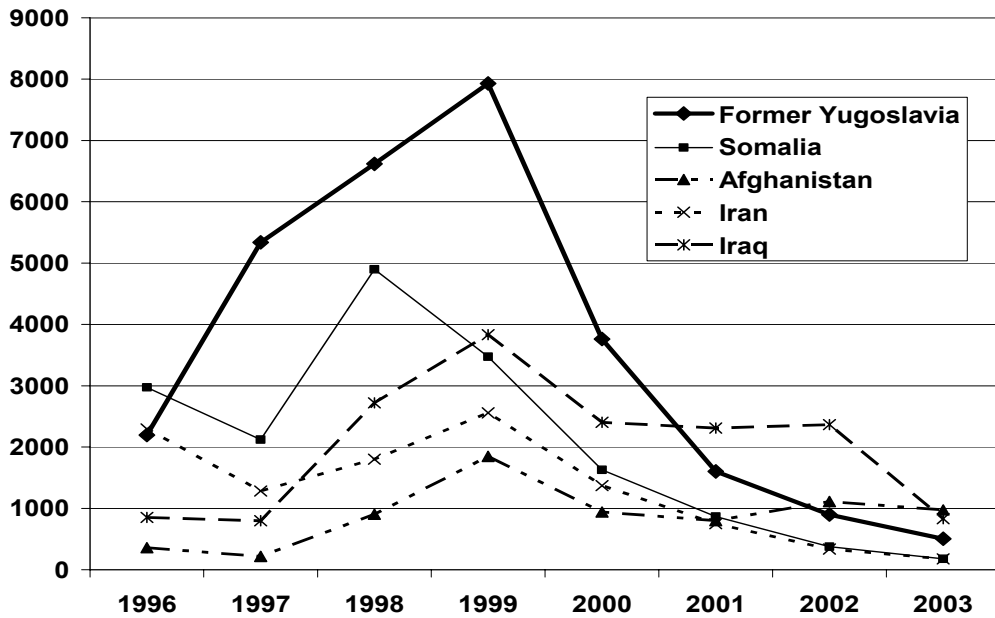
A large share of the naturalisations are Turkish and Moroccan immigrants of the 1970s and 1980s. While in the 1980s more Moroccans than Turks naturalised, in the years 1992 until 1998 the opposite was true (see Figure 3). This temporary increase among Turkish nationals is caused by the change in the aforementioned abdication rule. Figure 4 shows the number of naturalisations among immigrants from the five refugee groups for the years 1996 through 2003. It is clear that refugee naturalisations increased in the late 1990s and dropped after 2000. The naturalisation rise among the immigrants from former Yugoslavia is similar to the one for the Turks in Figure 3. It probably relates to the more flexible policy applied between 1992 and 1997. Our understanding of the almost similar fluctuation in naturalisation among the other refugees is not so much that it reflects the changing policy, but more that it reflects the residence period of the majority of these refugees in the Netherlands.

Figure 3: Number of naturalisations among Turks and Moroccans, 1980-2003.



Source: Statline, Statistics Netherlands.

Figure 4: Number of naturalisations among refugees, 1996-2003.



Source: Statline, Statistics Netherlands.

The absolute numbers of naturalisations, depicted in Figure 4, resulted in high percentages of Dutch citizenship per immigrant group. Table 1 shows the naturalisation rate by gender for the years 2002 (Turks and Moroccans) and 2003 (refugee groups).

**Table 1: Naturalisation rate by sex per group, 2002-2003.**

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Afghanistan	64	67
Somalia	80	83
Iran	89	90
Iraq	91	80
Former Yugoslavia	72	75
Turkey	56	50
Morocco	66	57

*Source:* SPVA 2002 and 2003, ISEO/SCP/NIDI.

Refugee groups from Somalia, Iran and Iraq show very high naturalisation rates. Immigrants from Turkey and Morocco in general have stayed longer in the Netherlands, but show lower rates of naturalisation. The immigrants from former Yugoslavia, who have mixed reasons for migrating to the Netherlands, have a naturalisation rate ‘in between’ the high rates for refugees and the lower rates for the longer-staying Mediterranean immigrants. Refugees from Afghanistan, both men and women, also have a lower naturalisation rate than other refugee groups. This could be due to the fact that most of the Afghani immigrants have not yet been in the Netherlands for at least five years and therefore are not eligible for Dutch citizenship. Among Turks and Moroccans and also among Iraqi males show a higher naturalisation rate than females. The other groups show higher rates for females.

### 3. Method and data

As noted earlier, our research focuses on two aspects of naturalisation, viz. (a) the acquirement of naturalisation in relation to demographic factors and socioeconomic integration, and (b) the effect of naturalisation on job chances and relative earnings of employment. Our analysis will therefore be twofold. We will first elaborate on the probability of obtaining Dutch citizenship, dependent on the individual’s socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. Secondly, we will analyse the job chances and wages in relation to Dutch citizenship while controlling for some other individual characteristics.

The operationalisation of the three core variables is as follows. *Citizenship status* is divided into having or not having obtained Dutch citizenship. *Employment*, the first dependent variable in the

second part of the analysis, is divided into having no job at all or having any kind of employment. The *income* variable, which is the second dependent variable in this part of the analysis, is the natural logarithm of monthly income of work.

The analysis of obtaining Dutch citizenship also includes as independent variables the educational level as well as demographic variables (such as age and gender), and immigrant-specific variables (such as the country of birth, reason for migration, years in the host country, whether education is obtained in the Netherlands or in the home country and whether the immigrant has participated in an ‘integration program’).

In the employment and earnings analysis age, gender, the country of birth, the years the individual has been in the country, the reason for migration, the educational level, whether or not the education is obtained in the Netherlands, whether the immigrant has participated in an ‘integration program’, the citizenship status and years since acquiring Dutch citizenship are used as explanatory variables.<sup>6</sup>

In line with Yang (1994), the statistical analysis will comprise logistic regressions to predict the effect of various variables on the probability of obtaining Dutch nationality and the probability of being employed respectively. We use OLS regressions to estimate the log-linear earnings model. Both descriptive and earlier research on citizenship attainment and employment and earnings of these groups will be presented and used to analyze the results of the statistical analysis.

The data we use come from the SPVA, the survey ‘Social Position and Use of Public Utilities by Immigrants’ for the years 2002 and 2003. These surveys have been carried out by the Institute for Sociological and Economic Research (ISEO) of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Dutch Social and Cultural Planning Office (SCP) and the Dutch Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), and aim to describe and analyse the socioeconomic and cultural integration of the four largest immigrant groups and the five largest refugee groups in the Netherlands. Given the geographical concentration of the migrant population, the SPVA consists of random samples of the population in thirteen cities, including the four largest, in the Netherlands.<sup>7</sup> In this paper we focus on seven groups, viz.: foreign-born immigrants from Turkey, Morocco, Afghanistan, Former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Iran and Somalia (‘first generation’). For our analysis we will use a weighted pooled sub-sample of SPVA which comprises the population of these groups in the ages of 18 to 64 years and those individuals

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<sup>6</sup> Weekly hours worked is included as a control variable in the monthly income regressions.

<sup>7</sup> Further detailed information for the versions of the SPVA used in this paper can be found in Groeneveld & Weijers-Martens (2003) and Van den Maagdenburg & Groeneveld (2005).

who have been in the Netherlands for at least five years. These restrictions are due to the Dutch legislation on naturalisation (see section 1).

## 4. Results

### *A. Citizenship acquisition*

In Table 2 we present the results of four simple logistic regressions on the probability of obtaining Dutch nationality by immigrants and refugees. The first model, with all immigrant groups included (first column), shows that a higher educational level as well as having obtained education in the Netherlands has a positive and significant effect on the probability of obtaining Dutch nationality. Contrary to what we expected, no significant effect is found for gender and years of residence (beyond 5 years). When we restrict our analysis to refugee groups (second column) and include the variables ‘integration program’ and migration reason, we find no significant effect for participation in an ‘integration program.’ Refugees who have fled from war or come for political reasons as well as family reunion-migrants have a significantly higher probability of obtaining Dutch citizenship. Women from refugee countries have a higher probability of ascending to Dutch citizenship. Increasing years of residence is also positively and significantly related to Dutch citizenship acquisition

In model 2 of the same table the different groups are included as a variable. The model is again subdivided in one with all countries (column 3) and one with only the refugee groups and some extra explanatory variables (column 4). In the regression including all countries we find that most of the earlier included variables are significant and in this case this also applies to the variable for years of residence. When we include country of birth, we find that refugees have a higher probability of obtaining Dutch citizenship than Mediterranean immigrants. This confirms the differences in the naturalisation rate observed in Table 2. The analysis that only includes refugee groups shows once more that participation in an ‘integration program’ has no significant effect on the probability of acquiring Dutch citizenship. Those who moved to the Netherlands for political, war and family reasons are more inclined to naturalise than those who moved for labour market or educational reasons.



**Table 2 : Odds ratio's of obtaining Dutch nationality on selected variables**

	<i>Model 1</i>		<i>Model 2</i>	
	All groups	Refugee groups	All groups	Refugee groups
<b>Age</b>	1.165***	1.160***	1.198***	1.149***
<b>Age squared</b>	0.998***	0.998***	0.998***	0.998***
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	1	1	1	1
Female	0.978	1.306**	1.022	1.326***
<b>Years of residence</b>	0.994	1.111***	1.054***	1.107***
<b>Educational level</b>				
Primary Education	1	1	1	1
Lower secondary Education	1.377***	1.182	1.324**	1.224
Higher secondary Education	1.618***	1.186	1.393***	1.180
University education	2.020***	1.413**	1.658***	1.443**
<b>Education home/destination country</b>				
Home country	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	2.035***	1.862***	1.715***	1.792***
<b>Participation in 'integration program'</b>				
No participation		1		1
Participation		1.114		1.021
<b>Reason for migration</b>				
Labour market/Education		1		1
War/Political reasons		7.172***		6.179***
Family reunion		5.244***		4.368***
<b>Home countries</b>				
Afghanistan			1	1
Somalia			2.627***	2.144***
Iran			3.297***	2.896***
Iraq			2.174***	2.177***
Former Yugoslavia			1.144	1.191
Turkey			0.347***	
Morocco			0.523***	
<b>Constant</b>	0.088***	0.004***	0.033***	0.004***
<i>Number of observations</i>	6795	3867	6795	3867
<i>Degrees of freedom</i>	8	11	14	19
<i>-2 log Likelihood</i>	7950,388	3399,824	7458,085	3313,361

Source: SPVA 2002, ISEO/SCP/NIDI.

\*\*\*, \*\*, \* indicates significance at 0.01, 0,05 and 0,1 level.

In summary, the analysis reveals that years of residence and being female have a significant and positive influence on the odds of obtaining Dutch citizenship. The finding that women have a higher probability of obtaining Dutch citizenship is divergent from the seminal work by Yang (1993)

and other studies in this volume (DeVoretz and Pivnenko 2004). A regression including the interaction between gender and immigrant group showed that only women from Turkey have a significantly higher probability of acquiring Dutch citizenship.<sup>8</sup> The educational level of the immigrant as well as whether he or she received their education in the Netherlands had a strong impact on the probability to naturalise. Contrary to what we expected, participation in an ‘integration program’ does not increase the log odds to naturalise. More important for naturalisation is the migration reason and the admission status of the migrant. We found a huge significant probability to naturalise when the immigrant came to the Netherlands for political/war reasons or because of family reunion.

## B. Citizenship and employment

We now want to find out whether naturalisation affects the labour market outcomes of immigrants. We therefore wish to answer the question whether there are differences in job chances between immigrants with a non-Dutch nationality and immigrants with Dutch or dual nationality. Bevelander (2000) and others expected a positive relation between naturalisation and employment integration. Table 3 shows the employment rate by gender and citizenship per group. For all groups in Table 3 a clear difference in employment rate arises for those who have obtained Dutch nationality and those who have not. Dutch citizenship appears to be correlated with higher employment rates.

**Table 3: Employment rate by gender and citizenship, per group**

	<i>Non-Dutch nationality</i>	<i>Dutch nationality</i>	<i>Non-Dutch nationality</i>	<i>Dutch nationality</i>
	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>	
Afghanistan	49	56	8	26
Somalia	36	53	0	16
Iran	25	67	14	51
Iraq	20	49	8	23
Former Yugoslavia	58	71	47	59
Turkey	59	64	21	36
Morocco	47	62	14	34

*Source:* SPVA 2002 and 2003, ISEO/SCP/NIDI.

Since individual characteristics could influence the results depicted in Table 3, we proceed with an analysis of job chances for the various immigrant groups with different citizenship status while controlling for individual characteristics. Table 4 shows that in all regressions the variables age

<sup>8</sup> Results available upon request.

and age squared have a significant effect. A higher educational level as well as having obtained their education in the Netherlands increases the log odds of obtaining employment. According to the results in column 2, labour migrants have significantly higher log odds of obtaining employment in the Dutch labour market than immigrants who came because of war, political and family reasons.<sup>9</sup> In column 3 we expand the analysis by including the variable years since citizenship acquirement. The effects of changing citizenship and years of residence are insignificant in this model while instead the variable years since citizenship acquirement are significant.

In columns 4-6 we run the same models as in columns 1-3 but now include the various immigrant and refugee groups as a variable. The results from these regressions show once more the important effect of education on the probability of being employed in the Netherlands. Citizenship acquisition has a positive and significant effect on job chances. The results furthermore show that immigrants from Somalia and Iraq have the lowest probability and those from former Yugoslavia and Turkey the highest probability of being employed. Results with interactions between gender and citizenship, and immigrant group and citizenship indicate that women who have obtained Dutch nationality, have a higher chance of being employed than women without Dutch citizenship. Individuals from Iran and Iraq who have obtained Dutch nationality have an increased probability of being employed compared to those who did not and to those who belong to other immigrant groups.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Yugoslavs who arrived in the 1960s and 1970s are included in the category of labour migrants.

<sup>10</sup> Results available upon request.

**Table 4: Odds ratio of obtaining employment on selected variables**

	All groups	Refugee groups	Refugee groups	All groups	Refugee groups	Refugee groups
<b>Age</b>	1.148***	1.116***	1.137***	1.134***	1.116***	1.144***
<b>Age squared</b>	0.998***	0.998***	0.998***	0.998***	0.998***	0.998***
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	1	1	1	1	1	1
Female	0.310***	0.392***	0.368***	0.276***	0.355***	0.332***
<b>Years since migration</b>	1.042***	1.093***	1.024	1.021***	1.074***	1.007
<b>Educational level</b>						
Primary Education	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lower second. Educ.	1.985***	1.896***	1.898***	1.730***	1.636***	1.638***
Higher second. Educ.	2.011***	1.888***	1.931***	1.845***	1.668***	1.686***
University education	2.651***	2.521***	2.365***	2.649***	2.371***	2.176***
<b>Education</b>						
Home country	1	1	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	1.654***	1.587***	1.497***	1.634***	1.539***	1.454***
<b>Citizenship</b>						
Non-Dutch	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dutch	1.468***	1.779***	2.021	1.649***	1.985***	3.157
<b>Years since Citizenship</b>			1.082***			1.085***
<b>Participation in 'inburgerings' program</b>						
No participation		1	1		1	1
Participation		0.993	1.043		1.008	1.076
<b>Reason migration</b>						
Labour market/Educ.		1	1		1	1
War/Political reasons		0.733*	0.789		0.914	0.963
Family reunion		0.737	0.821		0.805	0.822
<b>Countries</b>						
Afghanistan				1	1	1
Somalia				0.668***	0.569***	0.607**
Iran				1.536***	1.178	1.153
Iraq				0.631***	0.610***	0.666**
Former Yugoslavia				2.968***	2.069***	2.002***
Turkey				1.810***		
Morocco				1.496***		
<b>Constant</b>	0.056***	0.021***	0.013*	0.076***	0.022***	0.006**
<b>Observations</b>	6795	3867	3867	6795	3867	3867
<b>D. of freedom</b>	9	12	13	15	16	17
<b>-2 log likelihood</b>	7920,392	4182,306	2744,60	7674,372	4053,586	2674,188

Source: SPVA 2002, ISEO/SCP/NIDI.

\*\*\*, \*\*, \* indicates significance at 0.01, 0,05 and 0,1 level.

### C. Citizenship and earnings

Our final analysis deals with the effect of naturalisation on earnings, more precisely monthly income of work. As was discussed in earlier chapters of this book, naturalised immigrants are expected to have higher hourly wages and a higher monthly income compared to those who did not naturalise. As can be seen in Table 5, the monthly income for men and women within the various immigrant groups is in most cases higher for those who have obtained Dutch citizenship. Only among Turkish males and among females from Afghanistan this relation is not observed. Since monthly incomes are dependent on hours worked, we should control for this factor as is done in the multivariate analysis presented in Table 6.

**Table 5: Mean earnings<sup>11</sup> of employment for immigrants and refugees by sex and citizenship.**

	<i>Original nationality</i>	<i>Dutch nationality</i>	<i>Original nationality</i>	<i>Dutch nationality</i>
	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>	
Afghanistan	1002	1094	860	784
Somalia	944	1165	-	840
Iran	1282	1391	700	1080
Iraq	1107	1284	1003	1007
Former Yugoslavia	1346	1412	1072	1126
Turkey	1515	1510	899	925
Morocco	1333	1405	748	1004

*Source:* SPVA 2002 and 2003, ISEO/SCP/NIDI.

We will now explore the effects of naturalisation on the log monthly incomes of the immigrant and refugee groups, while we take into account several important individual characteristics that we expect to have an effect on the log monthly income of individuals.

<sup>11</sup> In Euros.

**Table 6: OLS estimation of log-linear earnings model: Citizenship effect on earnings**

	All groups	Refugee groups	All groups	Refugee groups
	Coeff.	Coeff.	Coeff.	Coeff.
<b>Age</b>	.057***	.066***	.057***	.066***
<b>Age squared</b>	-.001***	-.001***	-.001***	.001***
<b>Female</b>	-.124***	-.078***	-.144***	-.014***
<b>Years since migration</b>	.009***	.015***	.009***	.002***
<b>Educational level</b>				
Low second. Educ.	.066***	.032	.045**	.009
High second. Educ.	.117***	.070**	.099***	.055**
University Educ.	.244***	.186***	.234***	.180***
<b>Dutch Education</b>	.050***	.050*	.048***	.049**
<b>Dutch Citizenship</b>	.009	.033	.005	.035
<b>Years since Citizenship</b>				
<b>Lnhours</b>	.746***	.752***	.744***	.749***
Somalia			.020	.007
Iran			.048*	.035
Iraq			-.051*	-.045
Former Yugoslavia			.119***	.102***
Turkey			.026	
Morocco			.013	
<b>Constant</b>	3.101***	2.863***	3.101***	2.905***
<b>Observations</b>	2410	1551	2410	1551
<b>Adjusted R Square</b>	0.583	0.606	0.589	0,612
<b>F-Statistics</b>	333,631	236,429	214,743	173,878

Source: SPVA 2002 and 2003, ISEO/SCP/NIDI.

\*\*\*, \*\*, \* indicates significance at 0.01, 0,05 and 0,1 level.

Table 6 shows that the control variables age and age squared have expected and significant coefficients; an increase in age is congruent with an increase in the monthly income of the individual. The educational level also strongly correlates with our dependent variables. It basically shows that a higher educational level in the Netherlands is translated into higher monthly income for immigrants. While being highly significant, the immigrant specific variables 'years since migration' and 'Dutch education' also show the expected direction for the coefficients. The log hours variable has the expected correlation of increased income with increased hours of work. The results also reveal the expected higher earnings for males in comparison to females.

Most important: if we control for all demographic and labour market variables, the effect of naturalisation is weak, positive but insignificant in the analysis in which we include all groups. However, when we only analyse refugee groups, the result becomes significant. Including dummies

for individual groups has only small effects on the various background variables and does not change the effects of the citizenship variables. Finally, a very weak but significant citizenship premium can be found for the refugees in the Dutch labour market.

## **5. Conclusions**

In this paper we analysed the relation between socioeconomic integration and naturalisation. We started with an analysis of various factors, demographic and educational, affecting naturalisation rates. In this case naturalisation is the dependent variable. We then analysed the relation between the job chances and earnings on the one hand and naturalisation on the other hand. We used a sample of Afghani, Somali, Iranian, Iraqi, former Yugoslav, Turkish and Moroccan immigrants in the Netherlands, with data from the 2002 and 2003 version of the survey 'Social Position and Use of Public Utilities by Immigrants' (SPVA).

Our main finding in relation to the acquirement of naturalisation is that the educational level of the immigrant as well as whether he or she received this education in the Netherlands, has a strong positive impact. This confirms the hypothesis that a better socioeconomic position positively affects the chance of having Dutch nationality. Furthermore participation in 'integration programs' did not correlate with naturalisation. Being a woman did: contrary to earlier findings we found that women have a higher probability of obtaining Dutch nationality. Finally the variable years of residence is also positively related to naturalisation rates.

When it comes to the consequences of naturalisation we found that whether and when Dutch nationality was acquired both have a positive and significant effect on the immigrants' job chances. This confirms the hypothesis that naturalisation enhances labour market opportunities. We furthermore found that naturalisation has no significant effect on wages when we pool both immigrants and refugee groups, but that it is significant for refugee groups separately. The effect of years since naturalisation is significant but weak. The findings on wages do not directly confirm the hypothesis on positive effects of naturalisation on the labour market position. They rather specify the hypothesis: naturalisation has positive wage effects for refugees, but not for Mediterranean immigrants who came to the Netherlands for various reasons (labour migration, family reunification, and family formation). This diversity may explain the unexpected result.

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## Appendix

### *Descriptives selected variables*

	<b>Citizen (St.Dev.)</b>	<b>Non-Citizen (St.Dev.)</b>
Mean age	39.37(11.94)	37.35(10.04)
Mean Years since migration	16.77(10.02)	15.43(8.25)
Females	1004	2063
Males	1157	2790
Primary schooling	1215	1815
Secondary lower education	300	790
Secondary higher education	387	1258
University education	192	863
Afghanistan	279	513
Iran	92	785
Iraq	174	712
Somalia	128	571
former Yugoslavia	212	576
Turkey	761	866
Morocco	515	830
<b><i>Total number</i></b>	<b>2161</b>	<b>4853</b>

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