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**Paper Submitted to Working Session 2:
Intolerance against Migrants**

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As German politicians have also accepted in recent years, Germany is since a long time an immigration society. According to the official statistics of German Federal Statistical Office from 2008, 19 percent of the population in the country has immigration background (1). This paper discusses some problem spheres in German society in context of immigration and concludes with some policy suggestions concerning the better integration and participation of migrants into German society.

According to a scientific study conducted by Amadeu Antonio Foundation and University of Bielefeld in 2009, 50 percent of the surveyed people in Germany think that there are too many immigrants in their country and 46 percent think that there are too many Muslims in Germany (2).

As a member of the board at Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, Thilo Sarrazin`s theories have showed that intolerance and discrimination against migrants in Germany is not exclusive to the extreme right but can also be found in mainstream society. His discriminating comments like "Muslims are not capable of integrating themselves into the German society and have low IQs" were not so important if such theories would not get high rate of acceptance in the mainstream society. According to a survey conducted by the news channel N24, 30 percent of surveyed people in Germany are largely agree with Sarrazin`s theories (3). The discussion around Sarrazin`s theories have transformed itself easily in some parts of the society to scapegoating of immigrants concerning the some structural problems in Germany.

A study conducted in Germany by IZA Institute in 2010 reached to the conclusion that despite anti-discrimination law and generally growing willingness of governments to the integration policies, job candidates with immigration background are in the German labor market still disadvantaged(4). This study concludes that German citizens with Turkish names despite same qualifications compared to applicants with German names have on average 14% less chance of a job interview. In smaller companies the difference was even more pronounced: here the applicant with Turkish-sounding name, despite equal qualifications, 24% less chance of a job interview.

According to an OECD study, the unemployment rate in 2007 is among the university graduates with an immigrant background at 12.5 percent. However, it is among the Germans without an immigrant background only 4.4 percent (5).

Centre for Turkish Studies in Essen estimates that the unemployment rate among university graduates of Turkish origin in Germany is three times higher than originally German counterparts (6).

The studies mentioned above are enough to conclude that Germany has still some serious deficits in the process of dealing with the realities of becoming an



immigration society. Despite of the fact that German governments have realized how important is the better integration and participation of migrants into the society for the future of Germany and accordingly they have more invested into integration policies in recent years, it can be still said that Germany should do more in combating discrimination against immigrants especially in employment, in changing just the negative picture of immigrants among some parts of the society and in developing a welcome culture for immigrants in order to increase their willingness to use their capacities and resources effectively for a better future of Germany.

- 1- Statistisches Bundesamt Deutschland, Anteil der Einwohner mit Migrationshintergrund leicht gestiegen, Pressemitteilung Nr.033, 26.01.2010
- 2- Amadeu Antonio Stiftung, Europäische Zustände, Ergebnisse einer Studie über gruppenbezogene Menschenfeindlichkeit in Europa, 13.11.2009
- 3- Jörn Bender und Harald Schmidt, Bundesbank und SPD tun sich schwer, http://www.n24.de/news/newsitem_6302506.html, 1.9.2010
- 4- Leo Kaas and Christian Manger, Ethnic Discrimination in Germany's Labour Market: A Field Experiment, Discussion Paper No. 4741, February 2010, IZA Forschungsinstitut zur Zukunft der Arbeit
- 5- OECD, Jobs for Immigrants – Labour Market Integration in Australia, Denmark, Germany and Sweden, vol. 2007, no. 9.
- 6- Berliner Morgenpost, Türkische Akademiker verlassen Berlin, 9.6.2008



Short Information about the TGD e.V. (Turkish Community in Germany)

TGD was founded on 2.12.1995 in Hamburg in order to represent the interests of German-Turks at public and vis-a-vis governmental institutions. TGD is a nationwide umbrella organization of legally registered associations. In line with the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany, TGD represents not only umbrella organizations at federal states' level but also the professional and industrial associations existing from around 267 individual associations.

Objectives of the TGD

- legal, social, political equality and equal treatment of immigrants in Germany
- fighting against xenophobia and discrimination of any kind
- integration of cultural minorities into German society with preserving their cultural identity
- recognition of minorities as an equal part of society
- identification of Germany by non-German population living here permanently as a new home

Organizational principles of the TGD

- pluralistic
- grassroots democratic
- refusing any form of violence and racism
- organizing itself in line with the federal structures of Germany
- committed to liberal, democratic, social and constitutional principles
- open to all associations, regardless of political and religious conviction