

Welcome to the margins of society: An analysis of (civic) integration policy and fundamental rights of immigrants

13th of June, 2013

Sanne van de Pol

PhD Candidate

Sanne.VandePol@ua.ac.be



Introduction

- Inside-outside divide
- Legally residing TCNs
- Differentiation of rights
- Civic integration policy
- Consequences of civic integration policy
- Flemish example



Research question

- How does (civic) integration, (i) designed and implemented top-down by the government and supported by the majority, and (ii) made compulsory for some individuals (iii) interfere or conflict with a human rights perspective on freedom and equality?
- Tensions related to fundamental rights, migrants, civic integration policy



Flanders' integration policy

- Broad
- Migrants
- Traveller people
- People in deprived situations



- Emancipation, accessibility of regular facilities and social cohesion through diversity

Civic integration policy

- Basic course of Dutch
- Societal orientation
- Counselling towards work, education etc.
- Personal general guidance
- Out of margins
- Foreigners
- Belgians born outside Belgium with one foreign parent
- Minors who turn 18
- Religious servants and leaders



Societal orientation

- Freedom
- Equality (and non-discrimination)
- Solidarity
- Respect
- Citizenship



Tensions

- Civic stratification
- Migrant perspective



Civic stratification (1)

- Distinction nationals, EU citizens and TCNs
- Directive 2000/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States
- EU citizens only voluntary
- Social and legal differentiation



Civic stratification (2)

- Power of official classification
- Autochthonous (native) and allochthonous (non-native)
- Own use in society
- Creates divisions within society



Migrant perspective (1)

- Facilitating tools
- Restrictive
- Framework
 - Expectations
 - Real life
- Emphasis on duties



Migrant perspective (2)

- ‘Additive acculturation’
- Official definition integration
 - a dynamic and interactive process in which individuals, groups, communities and facilities, each departing from a context of enforceability of rights and duties inherent to the democratic legal state, relate to each other and deal with migration and its consequences in a constructive way
 - Multi-way process



Conclusion

- Exploration tensions
- Paradoxical nature of civic integration policy
 - Facilitating
 - Restricting
- Further research
 - Fieldwork
 - Enabling side of policy and rights

