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Marseille, France

*Briefing Paper*

**Economic Integration**

Our economy is thriving. We are an important port city that has been transformed into a melting pot of culture and immigrants over the years. We are at the crossroads of traffic flowing through Europe on North/South and East/West transversal axes, which arguable, was more important in the past when land-based trade was more prevalent. However, that history influences our prominence as a city today and we are still a major port for France and a leading port on the Mediterranean, an important stop for water based transport. We are a popular destination for tourism, in fact 148,000 jobs can be linked to tourism. Our economy is dynamic and growing, complete with many varied sectors.

What are its important sectors?

Many important sectors include the aeronautical industry, the oil industry, micro-electronics, the cosmetics industry, and the bio-pharmaceutical industry. We have been chosen by global companies for their head offices such as CMA-CGM (third biggest shipping company in the world), EADS-Eurocopter (world's leading helicopter constructor) and L'Occitane (luxury cosmetics).

Immigrants have participated in the Primary sector helping with mining, quarrying, and extracting oil. They do make up the workforce of the most common jobs in Marseille, which include Administrative, Sales, Food & Servicing, and construction. Having assimilated into the cities wide range of ethnicities many migrants find jobs in a number of sectors.

There are ethnic communities in Marseille, which do suggest that it would be easier to find a job in one's ethnic community. Migrants are more likely to be hired by different types of businesses whether its dealing with tourism, retail, or somewhere in the primary sector. Marseille's economy focus is primarily concerned with the mining and oil business, and so the majority of the migrant community fall into that sector. However with unemployment being higher among the migrant group, an informal market does seem to take place.

Migrants are involved in a variety of sectors in Marseille. However compared to the white population in Marseille, migrants do tend to get the lower paying jobs that lean away from the entrepreneurial portion of the economy.

With a very diverse set of people jobs accept many people with many types of backgrounds. In terms of services, migrants have some hiring companies that seek labor and are looking to recruit migrants, usually for cheap work. The society in Marseille is inclusive and many migrants are welcome to jobs, however some jobs need certain training and background, making it harder for migrants to find high paying jobs.

The unemployment rate in Marseille is around 13% and even higher for migrants. It is hard with the disparity between urban and suburban areas where we are trying to solve poverty issues.

Most migrants are coming in search of jobs and better opportunities, usually implying that their home country is in a worse state than Marseille. Therefore many migrants are not coming with a lot of school/work experience. However they do bring a lot of promise in working for the primary sector of Marseille.

France provides a welfare net for immigrants. Immigrants are entitled to an allowance of 11.45 euros a day or 343.50 euros a month while being processed as a refugee or for housing one of some 300 asylum-seeker housing projects across France. There are also many institutions, such as food banks, which offer further support by supplying free or cheap meals. Free health insurance is also ensured while their application is being reviewed.

Of course more migrants means more people which will strain the social services system.

Nevertheless, most migrants do not come seeking to feed off of the welfare system. They come

for a need for security and are motivated to be contributors to the economy. Even if they put a strain on the social services system, they are in turn advancing the economy of our state, Are they a perceived strain on the social services system?

There is very popular support for migrants in Marseille as we have one of the biggest immigrant communities in France. The political climate and anti migrant policies of France may contribute to the perception that migrants are a heavy strain on the social services system. On the other hand, many inhabitants are immigrants or have interacted with immigrants and this may dispel these stereotypes.

We like to keep an open mindset on migrants, however, at this moment we are struggling with unemployment rates and working on reducing the economic disparity between our inhabitants, so we unfortunately cannot welcome too many migrants. Nevertheless, the community is always welcoming of migrants. For example, just last October, many rallied to show their support for a migrant rescue ship stuck at our port after France denied the boat permission to dock.

## **Health**

Our public and private hospitals and organizations provide healthcare to all French residents, regardless of income, status, or age. This system makes healthcare easily accessible to all, including foreigners. Most of the costs and expenses are covered by the state, but residents must register with one of our health insurers and register with a doctor in order for treatments to be covered by our system. This is due to our obligatory social security contributions, which are taken from salaries. For foreigners, we offer the recently implemented *Protection Universelle Maladie* (PUMA) which intends to reduce paperwork and simplifies the processes, and guarantees foreigners who have worked or lived in France for at least three months access to our healthcare system and the reimbursements that come with it.

Thanks to our PUMA system, asylum seekers are granted the same access to healthcare. Refugees receive an accelerated procedure and an asylum claim certification. They must submit documents of their stay, marital status, and their income. Migrants below a certain income level receive the same benefits under our PUMA system. Our public hospitals also offer 24/7 healthcare centers for those with low incomes and are awaiting health insurance. The PUMA system ensures that public healthcare organizations provide centers and clinics for low-income individuals.

Our country's healthcare system is ranked number one in the world by the WHO. We provide easily accessible healthcare for both citizens and foreigners, and we boast some of the best survival rates for cases of cancer, heart attacks, and strokes. Our system provides full coverage for severe conditions such as cancer and diabetes and our private, non-profit, health insurance providers have plans for more than 90% of Marseille residents. The effects of our healthcare system are evident; Marseille has one of the highest life expectancies in the world.

Our country was the first in the world to implement a law that penalises supermarkets for throwing away edible products, and a petitions calling for more legislation were campaigned to stop the wasting of food when low-income people struggled to get by. We have emphasized approach on wasting food and water, and an emphasis on positive nutrition. The *Economist Intelligence Unit* (EIU) ranks France first in food loss and nutritious diets. This is in part to the policy and government responses to malnutritious diets. Migrant communities should expect a secure and healthy food supply due to our focus on not wasting edible food.

Incoming migrants who may be malnourished and have health problems can expect high quality care from our PUMA system, which ensures healthcare for all asylum seekers and migrants who cannot afford healthy diets or sustainable food sources. Due to our focus on not wasting food, supermarkets can provide food that they deem unfit for selling but is still edible for migrant communities that need it.

Our hospitals have highly trained staff members who are equipped to handle treatment and care for citizens of all ages who may have mental health and trauma issues. We have also created a mental health outreach program as a response to the large population of homeless people in our city. We have also implemented the State Medical Assistance as a form of health protection for migrants.

We have enlisted SUEZ Waste with the management of our sanitation systems, and due to their results our municipality has one of the most efficient sanitation systems in France. The constant servicing of the sanitation network, remodeling of the old infrastructure, and the creation of a basin that can store up to 50,000  $m^3$  of wastewater and stormwater has limited the pollution of our streams and has simultaneously protected the environment. 99.5% of the population of our country does have access to a piped water supply, but we hope to make that percentage 100% in the coming years. For the citizens who don't have indoor plumbing, they draw their water from wells.

We have had scares of a flu and measles epidemic in the recent years, but they have been dealt with, as citizens were encouraged to use vaccines. Many citizens also deal with the air pollution, which can be accounted from the cruise liners and vehicles around the city. The air pollution has been seen to cause cancer in some cases.

Although trash disposal is primarily a public service, most of the work is under private sector control, such as Veolia Recycling and Waste Management in Marseille. However, union strikes calling for better conditions have slowed the management of waste.

We hope to make healthcare more equitable to people of all statuses by allowing more migrants to possess health insurance and by increasing the opportunities undocumented migrants can receive healthcare. We also hope to make more advancements in medicine to make it more affordable to migrants as a way to address the health issues in Marseille.

## **Leadership and Governance**

Compared to the rest of France, migrants are better-integrated in Marseille, but there are still areas of extreme poverty where the National Front, a far-right party, is on the rise, creating a marked racial hostility.

The city government consists of a popularly elected municipal council, but there is some intimate involvement of many national ministries in the financing and planning of projects throughout the area. The city is divided into 16 arrondissements, but for the purposes of local government these are grouped into eight secteurs, which elect mayors. The city mayor is assisted by a local government of 27 members, each with responsibility for a particular facet of government, such as town planning, culture, finance, employment, or transport, and by delegate councillors who assist the adjoints or undertake more detailed responsibilities.

Marseille, despite being a city known for its large immigrant community due to its proximity to the ocean, must follow French national policy. The objective of the French national

law is to quickly process asylum applications, quickly deport those denied, and integrate those accepted as fast as possible.

Migrants are registered and allowed access to basic police services, unless they are due for deportation, in which case they are quickly detained, making this a negligible issue. Migrant conditions are generally not as good as those of French nationals due to their interim status and reliance on charity, though the government does provide basic services to all migrants. All migrants receive basic social services, but those granted refugee status (normally granted to anyone not a “threat to society or national security”) and their subsidiaries are granted, in accordance to French law “similar rights to social benefits as French citizens do “but only have access to certain special aid programs during the time that their application for asylum is being processed.” All migrants, regardless of refugee status, are granted migrant identification at ports of entry and certain (though limited) other facilities.

France has a fairly homogenous demography when not accounting for migrants, though the French census bureau publishes diversity statistics and French law mandates that certain companies have company boards that are at least 40% female, and recent EU indexes show that of companies on Europe's STOXX Europe 600, France has the most diverse, with the average company board 44.2% female. France does not have any specific laws or public policies on race, and since the 1970's public institutions have been significantly restricted from doing so. French law mandates ‘color-blind’ application of the law, and welfare programs and diversity programs are administered based on location rather than race.

France has had significant issues with migrants due to cultural differences, difficulty fully assimilating and highly publicized terrorist attacks. At the beginning of the migrant flood from the Middle East, France adopted an open borders policy with few provisions for acculturation or even just peaceable assimilation and integration into French society. This resulted in the disenfranchisement and sentiments of disdain from the first-generation French whose families came from the Middle East. This resulted in low social mobility for ethnic Muslims and divisions among French society. The significant differences in values held has exacerbated these divisions, as have the highly publicized terrorist attacks and their predominantly Muslim perpetrators. This is not unique to France, but has some unique characteristics in France.

## **Resilience**

Marseille, France is 2nd largest city in France and the oldest in the country. A thriving metropolis with over 1.5 million residents directly on the coast of Mediterranean Sea, Marseilles is no stranger to taking in large amounts of foreigners. We have become skilled in knowing how to strategize for immigrant waves, much of which can be seen in the meticulous design of our city. If an immigrant wave ever came, the housing market would be sure to help many of those in need but housing prices would have to decrease due to the an increased cost of living. Furthermore, for those fleeing from traumatic experiences, Marseilles would support those in need with its innovative medical facilities as well as personal. The people of our city have also been accustomed to knowing how to deal with influxes of people in times of crisis, thus with

their help, more progressive solutions would further be perpetuated. Finally, our education system is more than capable of welcoming migrants from around the globe and we ensure that all migrants are entitled to decent education.

While the city of Marseilles doesn't have an entire department dedicated to the influx of migrants, it would be false to say that we are not diligently working on handling this issue. The city has employed a vast amount of city officials to track the amounts of immigrants that settle in our beloved city. We are proud to boast that our city has been a melting pot ever since its existence. Immigrants from all walks of life, especially from the Mediterranean have found a home here, therefore our city is accustomed to handling influxes of people. Our Mayor Jean-Claude Gaudin has made it his top priority to maintain Marseille's connection to immigration. This is evident in his support for the International Organization of Migration (IOM) plan to open a new office in Marseilles. This office will be tasked with carrying out operational programmes and creating informational campaigns for migrants. The purpose of these programs is to help adjust migrants into the Marseillais way of life while also helping them feel more at home. The IOM has made its name known to the world and its influence is especially noticeable in cities located in the Mediterranean region. Marseilles is thankful to be working with such a credible organization and we look forward to further partnerships that will better the lives of our migrant citizens.

The City of Marseille has taken in migrants for centuries, and has always accepted the influx of people coming into the city from other Mediterranean countries. Currently, France has about 8,047,560 immigrants, with many of them entering the country through Mediterranean cities. Marseille is trying to become a link between the shores of the Mediterranean. All of the migrants entering the city will be trying to get a job and settle down. Marseille provides opportunities like the School of Second Chance for these migrants to get a formal schooling. Marseille is also supporting a program called Plan Bleu. Plan Bleu is a non-government organization that raises awareness for environmental concerns and sustainable development. Sustainable development is a very important because with the many migrants that come into the city, we will need to be able to grow communities without wasting our space or money. So far, Marseille has put forth three successful Marseille Jobs Plans that have allowed the creation of several structuring facilities and programs for youth and unemployed people.

The city of Marseilles has been fully committed to ensuring the safety of every single person, regardless of religion, race, or ethnic background. This safety is provided not only in form of our dedicated police force but also through cultural efforts as well. While many have criticized our city for elements of islamophobia or anti semitism, Marseilles has been fully committed to building mosques and synagogues in order for immigrants to have safe spaces where they can celebrate their culture without worry. Furthermore our bouillabaisse of a city is home to one of the busiest ports in the world, therefore we take security on the seafront very seriously. It is nothing short of crucial that the boats coming in are screened and that people go through a strict vetting process.

Marseille has, and is, always trying to guarantee that the City is following international humanitarian laws. We are supporting programs such as the United Nations World Food Programme and Plan Bleu as well. These programs, although some of them are Non-Government Organizations (NGO), are being checked regularly to make sure that they are following all regulations. The city of Marseille has not, in recent years, been accused of illicit activities relating to the migrant crisis we are facing, and is striving to solve this urgent problem of migration.

Technology is a vital element in making sure immigration is kept under control. As a world class city, we are constantly upgrading our transportation systems in order to smoothly connect those from the outskirts to those in the downtown area. Due to our decent level of class integration, immigrants will find themselves living in all parts of the city and in order to pursue job opportunities, bus and train services are a necessary factor. Housing technology needs to become more innovative in regards to building more living spaces at quicker speeds. Marseilles would rather not have to transform title into a tent city if an international emergency arose and it had to accept too many immigrants. These technologies would have to go through the urban Technology is a vital element in making sure immigration is kept under control. As a world class city, we are constantly upgrading our transportation systems in order to smoothly connect those from the outskirts to those in the downtown area. Due to our decent level of class integration, immigrants will find themselves living in all parts of the city and in order to pursue job opportunities, bus and train services are a necessary factor. Housing technology needs to become more innovative in regards to building more living spaces at quicker speeds. Marseilles would rather not have to transform title into a tent city if an international emergency arose and it had to accept too many immigrants. These technologies would have to go through the urban planning committee but in order to provide a united Marseilles for all, the Resilience committee is more than willing to work together.

### **Social Cohesion**

We as Marseille have an extremely diverse migrant population. Our demographics reflect the inclusion of all religions, especially in our urban communities. With our spike in population in the 2000s, we have also begun to house a growing number of Muslims in our city as well. In regard to age range, we have an abundance of youth as well as their families currently living in Marseille.

The local populace of our city has done fairly well with welcoming the influx of the new migrant population. However, with the growing strain on the economy due to the large flow of migrants, there has also been a growing strain on the relationship between the locals and the migrants. Due to the overwhelming number of immigrants in our city, the government has attempted to pass restrictions on immigration, but has faced backlash: the locals wish the new migrants to have the same rights as them. It is not an issue of attitude toward the migrants, but of the multitude of the migrants themselves.

Being a port city, we are easily accessible by boat. We are also known to be welcoming and hospitable toward migrants and newcomers. We have a rich culture and have a reputation of

being extremely multicultural. We are used to immigrants coming into our city due to our location, and we are not unwelcoming to them. Our beaches are our best example of cultures coming together and living cohesively.

We have a recent history of being as open as possible with migrants. The locals are used to immigration and see nothing wrong with it. The only recent issue with this has been with the number of migrants entering and the speed at which they are doing so. Since 2015, over one million migrants have entered our city, causing overcrowding and a less attractive living experience for the locals. While we are not opposed to the migrants themselves, we are opposed to the lowering of the living standard for our people. We have always been welcoming of new cultures and people, and that is seen throughout our history as well as now.

Our policies on assimilation and integration reflect the goals of the migrants. The majority of migrants wish to become a part of the French community and to be recognized as such upon entering our city. We fully support this notion as it unifies the migrants and the locals as well as gives the locals a sense of peace as their values are being recognized and enforced within a new group of people. We never seek to exclude migrants who have made it clear that they wish to become a part of our city, and they adapt our beliefs and way of living fairly well. It is usually a smooth transition overall.

We, Marseille do have a prevalent issue of discrimination, as in recent times, French Muslims face extraordinary biases in the job market. Callback rates for muslim men are very minuscule, as only 10.4% of all applicants receive an email or call from the employers, whereas Jews and Catholic have a 36% of receiving one. Although muslims in general receive substantial discrimination in the job market, muslim men specifically have the least callback rate from an employer which is only 5%, which is nearly a third of the women's 16%. In addition, this discrimination goes into housing, as residential segregation is a key feature of us. The city is split between urban renewal areas in the North, where there is a high Muslim and socio-economically deprived population, and southern districts with a much lower Muslim and migrant population.

Although muslims in general receive substantial discrimination in the job market, muslim men specifically have the least callback rate from an employer which is only 5%, which is nearly a third of the women's 16%. The callback rate for practicing female Catholic applicants is 40% higher than that for practicing Muslim women, the callback rate for practicing Catholic men is close to four times higher than that of practicing Muslim men.

About 20 to 40% of our population is comprised of muslims, which practice Islam. However, the muslims have created challenges for us to absorb migrants because during the 2005 France riots the international media commented on the perpetrators of the riots saying that the "majority of the youths committing attacks are Muslims, and of African and North-African origin."

In national and international media, we are often portrayed as a multicultural city, comprising a plurality of ethnic and religious communities, among which Muslim residents appear somewhat predominant. However, this distorted image of us is a cliché, which is much different from the reality of the city. In the regional press, Muslims are spoken about but not often heard from directly. In 1973, a psychologically disturbed Algerian man stabbed a bus driver to death and wounded several passengers. This incident stirred up hate crimes against the African population in our city and this was in part to the local press, which fostered an atmosphere of xenophobia. They conveyed a broad range of stereotypes about Algerians and Arabs, and questioning the very legitimacy of the presence of Maghrebi immigrants in our city.

## **Urban Planning**

### **Youth and Education**

In Marseille, we are working on reforming our school systems in a way that all of our youth can get the education necessary. In all of France, there are 12.4 million children who enrolled in school. 6.81 million of them enrolled in elementary school, and the other 5.59 million enrolled in either middle school or high school.

Our schools are having some difficulty to accompany all the youth seeking education, so we are working to improve it to compensate the educational needs for all.

Our teachers are diverse, due to the ethnically diverse French-speaking islands, and also due to the fact that it is a port city, and most port cities are diverse because travel in and out of them is readily available. According to the French Constitution, it is the duty of the state to provide free public education at all levels. In France, and other parts of Europe, Public education, even at the college level, is free. This is good for the education of the youth in Marseille. In terms of education, all of France is required by law to provide public, secular education.

We need to work at making sure that enough affordable housing for refugees is established, because in this sense our main priority is working with the refugees we already have, rather than taking in more. Also, some migrant children who try to enter unaccompanied must be kept in centers so that they are kept out of the streets of Marseille. As in the French constitution, it is the duty of the state to provide free public education at all levels. It is a matter of the flooding of migrant children into schools that we are concerned about; if all schools are full, then it would be difficult to guarantee such education.

There are less spots for other children to get public education at certain schools, making it increasingly difficult to provide education in some areas. They can get the education that they need, as long as they enter lawfully, and that they are accompanied. Once they are citizens of France, they have some rights. However, if they are not citizens and are in transit stations or places of immigration, such as airports, does not guarantee such rights. Unaccompanied minors are put in safer, more secure places when found at the borders and places of transit into Marseille.

Migrant children are expected to assimilate, assimilation is preferred to integration. Marseille as a whole consists of many different races and ethnicities of migrants, so they are all therefore integrated. There are NGOs that help migrants grow accustomed to life in Marseille. Migrant children are not prohibited from working or from seeking employment. We work with NGOs to aid migrant youth. There are refugee food festivals, and also an SOS program in Marseille for Men, Women, and children who are emigrating to Marseille via the Mediterranean sea. This SOS program works to save immigrants from possible demise at sea when in transit to Marseille.