Attitude towards non-European immigrants coming to Europe

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1. Summary

The aim of this thesis is to gain a better perspective on the attitude towards non-European immigrants coming to Europe. The attitude of students from Athens, Groningen and Leeds are being compared to the general opinion of these countries. The reason why this subject is chosen is because of the lack of research that has been done on the influence of non-European immigrants coming to Europe. The focus on students is because they will be playing a large role in our society for many years, are our political leaders in the future and set up policies regarding immigration and integration. This leads to following main question of the research: *What is the attitude of students from Groningen, Athens and Leeds towards non-European immigrants compared to the general opinion in the countries of these cities?*

This research question is answered via the use of descriptive and statistical analysis. The primary data is collected through surveys among students from Athens, Groningen and Leeds. The secondary data is collected by using the data of the Eurobarometer. The descriptive analysis showed that from these three countries (Greece, Netherlands, UK) the general opinion of the UK and the Netherlands are the most positive towards non-European immigrants coming to their country. In contrary, the general opinion of Greece is part of the least positive countries in Europe towards non-European immigrants.

To find out how the students of Athens, Groningen and Leeds are thinking about immigrants coming to their country several tests have been conducted. The results from these tests about different sorts of immigrants coming to Europe showed that students from Athens are the most positive towards family immigrants, while students from Leeds were the most positive about labour, asylum and illegal immigrants coming to their country. Also, an ordinal logistic regression has been conducted to find possible variables that play a role in the students' attitude towards immigrants. The significant parameters of Athens were 'attachment to own culture' and 'believes about the proportion of non-European immigrants in the total population'. Leeds students also showed a few parameters to be significant namely 'the effects of non-European immigrants on the economy in your country' and 'thoughts on how non-European immigrants will change the culture of your country'. Unfortunately, the Groningen model wasn't significant, so it is impossible to make any conclusion from this group. The final conclusion is that the general population in the UK show similar outcomes with the students' opinion, while in Greece students are more positive and, in the Netherlands, the general opinion is more positive than the students' opinion.

2. Introduction

Background

Due to an increase in globalization it is becoming easier for migrants to seek new places to live in different parts of the world. With this globalization immigrants will come in contact with foreign cultures. Nowadays we are even speaking about multicultural societies where multiple cultures live with each other. According to the data of Statista (2018) even 45% of the total population in Luxembourg is an immigrant. (Figure 1)
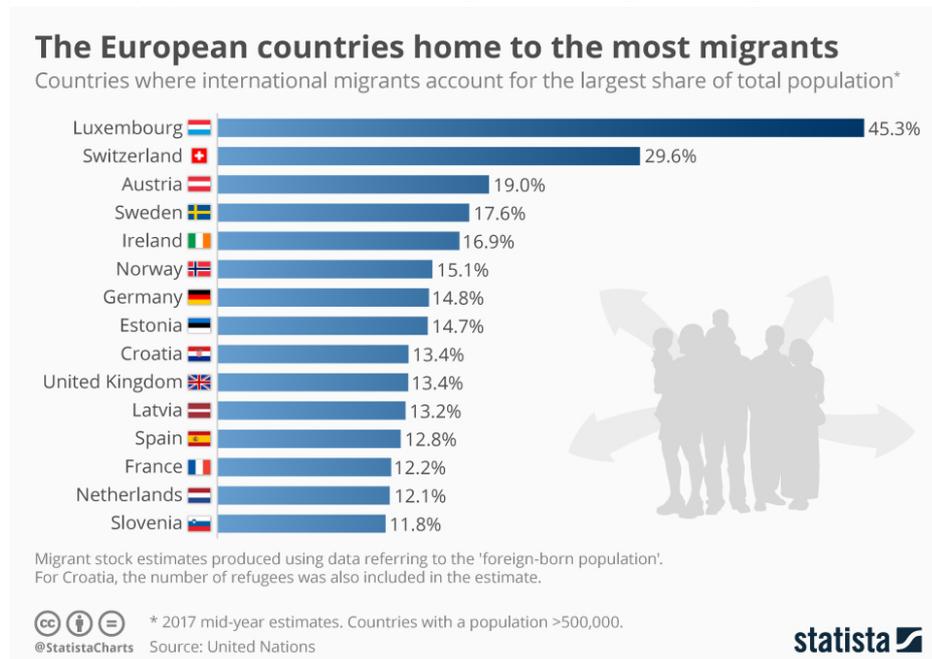

Figure 1. Source: Statista (2018).

There have been many researches done on immigrants and participating in autochthonous populations. However, a research of the European Union (2006) shows that there has been hardly any research done on the impacts of immigrants in an autochthonous society and culture. This is the reason why this research on the attitude towards non-European immigrants and the impact of these non-European immigrants on the autochthonous culture is important. The case study is focused on students from Groningen (The Netherlands), Athens (Greece) and Leeds (United Kingdom). The reason why the focus lies n the attitude of students towards non-European immigrants in this research is because they will be playing a large role in the society for many years and can be seen as our future (UN, 2018). Their attitude is very important because students are the youth who eventually might be our political leaders in the future and set up policies regarding immigration and integration. The cultural aspect and the different attitudes towards different non-European immigrants can be an important research on how to deal with multiculturalism in the future.

Research problem

The aim of this research is to investigate how students from Groningen, Athens and Leeds think about non-European immigrants and what variables are playing a role in their attitude towards these immigrants. The main research question will be: *What is the attitude of students from Groningen, Athens and Leeds towards non-European immigrants compared to the general opinion in the countries of these cities?*

In order to make a conclusion, the following sub questions arose from the main question:

- *What are the variables playing a role in the attitudes towards non-European immigrants?*
- *What are the perceptions of students and the general population on non-European immigrants coming to the EU?*
- *Does the attitude of students from different countries towards certain groups of non-European immigrants differ?*
- *Can there be found possible reasons or motivations for the attitude of students on immigrants with statistical analysis?*

Structure of the thesis

In chapter one you've read the summary of this thesis. In the second chapter, what's also this chapter, there is given some background information about immigration in Europe and explains the importance of the research that is conducted in this thesis. Also, the chapter consists the research problem which will tell something about the aim of the research, the main questions and de sub questions that arose from the main question, in order to make a conclusion for the thesis. In chapter 3 the theoretical framework together with the conceptual model and the hypothesis will provide the concepts that are used for the research of the thesis. In the fourth chapter the methodology will be explained to show how all the data will be analysed. After this, the results are presented in multiple parts in the fifth chapter. First, there is the descriptive part where the primary and secondary data will be compared. The second part consists of the statistical analysis of the primary data. The last part of this chapter will consist of a summary of the results. The final chapter will consist out of the conclusion in a larger context, where also the limitations, weaknesses and recommendations for further research will be discussed. Finally, the references are shown in the final chapter of this thesis.

3. Theoretical framework

This research is about the attitude of students from Groningen, Athens and Leeds towards immigrants coming to their country and how that compares to the national opinion in the countries of these cities. This research is supported by theories about the definition of attitude, cultural identity and immigrants, the impact of immigrants on societies and how to deal with immigrants and multiple cultures in a country.

The samples used for this research are from the Netherlands, Greece and the UK. The reason why these samples are used is because they all have to deal with immigrants in different forms. Skiba (2017) states that since the mass immigration of 2014 the UK

decided to leave the EU, because of the fear that their country would be flooded with migrants. The reason why Greece is used as a sample is because it's on the border of Europe and is the second largest host of immigrant sea and land arrivals according to the UNHCR (2019). The Netherlands are part of this research because since 1967 they are seen as an immigrant country and since then invited many guest workers to supply their demand for the unskilled labour market. (Zorlu et al. 2001)

Definition of 'attitude'
One of the most important definitions in this research is attitude, because the main research question will be focussed on this definition to come to a final conclusion. To define attitude, a definition of the Cambridge dictionary is used to explain how the definition is used in this research. An attitude is a feeling or opinion about something or someone. (Cambridge Dictionary)

Definition of 'cultural identity'
One of the variables that plays a large role in the attitude towards non-European immigrants is cultural identity of the host country. To understand how the cultural identity of the Netherlands, Greece and the UK can be influenced by non-European immigrants, it is important to define what cultural identity is, and which variables are playing roles in cultural identity. Hsueh-Ha Chen (2014) gives a clear definition of cultural identity. She says that cultural identity is an ongoing process. Due to globalization there is an increasing number of intercultural encounters and can so cultural identity can change at any time. Another thing she mentions is that important variables of cultural identity are nationality, ethnicity, race, gender and religion. She states that cultural identity is a process of sharing collective knowledge such as language, heritage, traditions, norms and customs. One of the questions in this research was to find out which variables of culture are playing a role in their opinion.

Definition 'immigrants'
Same as there are multiple forms of cultural identity there are also many different forms immigrants. Wanner (2002) explains that there are different reasons of migration. Often these reasons for migration are interrelated. The various forms of migration he mentions are labour migration, family migration asylum-related migration and illegal migration. These different forms can play also a different form of influencing the autochthonous culture and the attitude towards immigrants.

Impact of immigration on societies
In a research of the European Union (2006) on the impact of immigration on societies, became clear that the cultural diversity that immigration brings with it, leads to the development of new forms of discrimination, social exclusion, racism and xenophobia. This will bring us to the concepts of cultural differentialism, cultural convergence and cultural hybridization that is discussed by Nederveen Pieterse (2015). These concepts describe what possible ways there are to live with different cultures in the future. Whether we create a totally new culture (cultural hybridization), choose to live with separate cultures without being influenced by other cultures (cultural divergence) or make a combination of the existing cultures with implementing parts from other cultures (cultural convergence) The results from the survey are compared with these concepts to come to a possible final

conclusion how the participants of each country think which way his or her country is heading.

Also, a lot of data is accessible via Eurobarometer (2018). Via Eurobarometer there are many surveys available that are conducted all across Europe. This helped to gain more information about the perceptions on the non-European immigrants. For example, if the general population have a positive or negative view on non-European immigrants. Heath et al. (2016) conducted a survey for the ESS on different groups of immigrants and collected the opinions on the impact that these immigrants have, but also shows which groups of migrants are more favoured than others. To gain more information about the view of the general population of the Netherlands, Greece and the United Kingdom on the influence of immigrants on their culture, data from the Eurobarometer (2018) is used.

This data from the Eurobarometer will be the main source of secondary data used in this research. This data will be compared to the primary survey data among students via a statistical analysis that will be conducted for this research. The concepts mentioned above will eventually create a clearer image what the reasons of the opinions are and how to deal with the immigrants in the future.

Conceptual model

In the conceptual model below is visualized how the data was collected and analysed for the research. The data is collected via a survey among students from Groningen, Athens and Leeds. As can be seen in figure 2, the left part of the figure are variables that are playing a role in the attitude towards non-European immigrant from the student perspective. In the right part of figure 2, is shown that the general opinion is gathered via secondary data. Via different sorts of tests, the students were compared with the general opinion in their country. At first, the outcomes on a descriptive level are discussed with secondary data from the Eurobarometer to give a descriptive overview. Finally, the primary data of the students is also analysed via an ordinal logistic regression to discover the strength a direction of the variables that show significant outcomes.
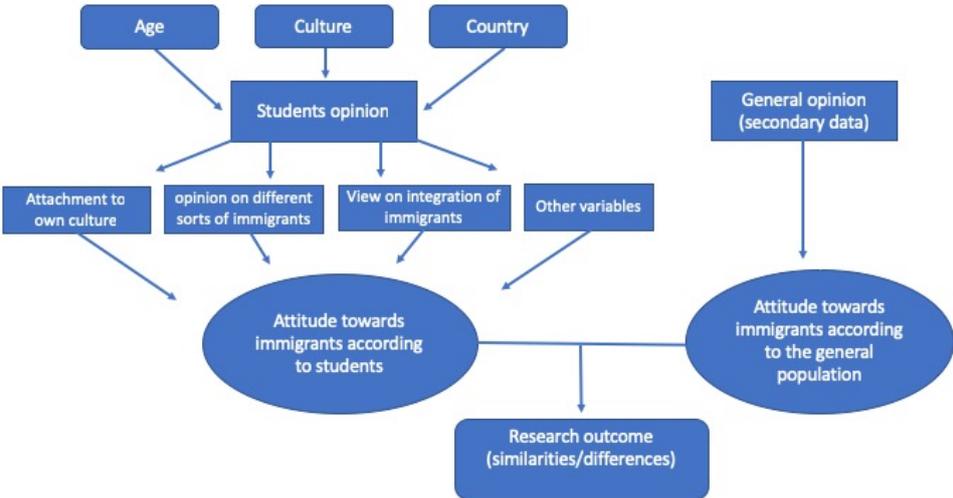

Figure 2. Conceptual model.

Hypotheses

The first hypothesis in the research is that students from Groningen are more positive towards non-European immigrants because of the Netherlands' immigration history. (Zorlu et al. 2001)

The second hypothesis is that students will have a more positive view towards non-European immigrants than the general population because they vote more often left wing. In a research of OIS, students tend to vote more left than right-wing. (2018)

4. Methodology

To gain the information that is needed to answer the main research question different sorts of data collection have been used. The primary data collection has been done via a survey among students in Athens, Groningen and Leeds. This primary data is compared with concepts found in the literature. Also, the primary data has been compared to the secondary data which shows the data of the general population. The research method that is used is a statistical analysis on the primary data.

For this research a fixed survey is used because of the limited time to collect the surveys and due to the target sample size of 50 surveys per country, to create a more reliable image. The final sample size is 148 samples. The total sample size of Athens students are 71 respondents, Groningen 40 respondents and Leeds 37 respondents. A fixed survey makes it easy for respondents to answer and also comparing the data easier. The surveys are conducted via a stratified sample on a field trip in Athens and in Groningen. Then random samples in this subgroup were chosen to create a more reliable image of the outcomes. (Clifford et al. 2013) After the completion of the questionnaire a pilot among students has been conducted to check for any weaknesses in the questionnaire. After the pilot the survey was conducted among the groups that are used for this survey. The survey among Leeds students have also been conducted in Athens together with Greek students. Otherwise this extra UK group could not be part of the research. Only Groningen student surveys were conducted in Groningen. The students will be questioned about certain topics linked to the main research question: *What is the attitude of students from Groningen, Athens and Leeds towards immigrants compared to the general opinion in the countries of these cities?*

The respondents have been informed about the research and how their data is used in the research before they filled in the questionnaire. The respondents had the right to withdraw from the survey at any time and are not being exposed to any harm in taking part of the survey. All the collected data is used anonymously and only used with the respondent's permission.

The survey does have some implications regarding the representativity of the students. In the survey the students of Groningen, Athens and Leeds will be used as a representative for their country in this research while only one city per country students will be asked. Also, the number of students that provide data is for this survey is not totally representative to speak for all the students.

In analysing the primary data, the ordinal logistical regression is used to interpret directions of variables that show a significant correlation with the dependent variable. (Laerd Statistics, 2018) For example, if the respondent's attitude towards immigrants is influenced by the respondent's attachment to their own culture or country where the respondent lives. This correlation also shows the strength of the variables. Next to the ordinal logistic regression that is being used, also a Kruskal-Wallis test is used to analyse the primary data. Via the Kruskal-Wallis test it is possible to see how the student groups form Athens, Groningen and Leeds are thinking about different non-European immigrant groups. By using the Kruskal-Wallis test individual variables between the same group can be compared (Moore, 2005). This makes it possible to see which immigrant group is more favoured than other groups. Also, it is possible to tell which student group is more positive or negative towards certain immigrants.

The secondary data is collected from the Eurobarometer (2018). The Eurobarometer provides data through public opinion surveys that are conducted in member states of the European Union. The surveys that are conducted through the Eurobarometer gives an insight on a wide variety of topical issues related to the European Union. One of these topics in the Eurobarometer is about immigration. The reason why secondary data has been implemented in this research is because one of the most significant ways in which all forms of science progresses is through replication. This involves previous studies being repeated in different circumstances. (Clifford et al. 2013) The secondary data is being used through descriptive statistics because the data was not suitable for a statistical analysis. The secondary data of the Eurobarometer has also been analysed and illustrated through GIS to create a clear representation of the geographical differences per country and enhance the quality of the input. (Fotheringham et al. 2014)

5. Results

Descriptive statistics

First the data is reviewed on a descriptive level. Afterwards the data is reviewed via statistical analysis. To get a clear image on the attitude towards immigrants a few sub questions about the respondents' knowledge and view on immigration was asked. The results of the survey are presented next to the data of Eurobarometer in table 1 and 2. (2018)

To what extent do you think you are well informed on the subjects immigration and integration?

	Greece	Greece Survey	Netherlands	Netherlands Survey	United Kingdom	United Kingdom Survey
Well informed	31%	56,3%	56%	69,2%	43%	86,5
Not well informed	69%	34,4%	44%	30,8%	55%	13,5%
Don't know	0%	9,4%	0%	0%	2%	0%

Table 1.

Table 1 shows that, in general the students that participated in the survey think that they are overall better informed about integration and immigration than the general population of the country they live in. It is not possible to explain the differences with making presumptions because this will influence the quality of the collected data.

In general, do you think there are more non-European immigrants who are staying legally than illegally in your country?

	Greece	Greece Survey	Netherlands	Netherlands Survey	United Kingdom	United Kingdom Survey
More legally	21%	7,8%	75%	66,7%	50%	75,7%
More illegally	58%	42,2%	13%	12,8%	22%	5,4%
The same amount of legal and illegal	15%	28,1%	10%	17,9%	10%	5,4%
Don't know	6%	21,9%	2%	2,6%	18%	13,5%

Table 2.

In table 2 it is shown that there are large differences between the countries on the question if there are more legally than illegally non-European immigrants in their country. Especially the data of the Greece survey among students shows a very low percentage of legal non-European immigrants. According to a research by Leonidas Cheliotis there are

390,000 undocumented migrants in Greece in 2011. This is less than half of the total number of 905,881 non-EU migrants coming to Greece in 2016. (EMN, 2016) One of the reasons for the Greece respondents' answer could be the explained by the fact how they are influenced by the media. A research of McNeil (2019) showed that media narratives about migration are deeply shaped by the national press culture. However as said before this data is descriptive and there are no clear reasons to explain the results shown in table 1 and 2.

Differences in positivity in Europe
To give a clearer image on the view on non-European immigrants, A GIS map is used to show the differences per country in Europe. The data that is used for this map comes from the Eurobarometer (2018).

To compare the primary data of the students with the secondary data of the general population, data from the Eurobarometer has been visualized to create a better view on the opinion towards non-European immigrants. As can be seen in map 1, the countries that are the most positive about non-European immigrants are Ireland, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden and Finland. These countries all have in common that they are geographically seen the furthest away from the European border with Africa and Asia or are the most difficult accessible from these areas. On this map it becomes clear that especially eastern Europe has a very negative view towards non-European immigrants who are coming to their country. The countries in Europe that are scoring the lowest are Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece and Slovakia. These results can be compared to the concept of Nederveen Pieterse. (2015) In the more positive areas of Europe countries will likely be more striving to cultural convergence or cultural hybridization. This means that cultures are interacting with each other. While in eastern/south eastern Europe countries are more likely to live with a form of cultural divergence, which means that cultures are living separate of each other since the population is more negative towards non-European immigrants.

View on immigrants per country
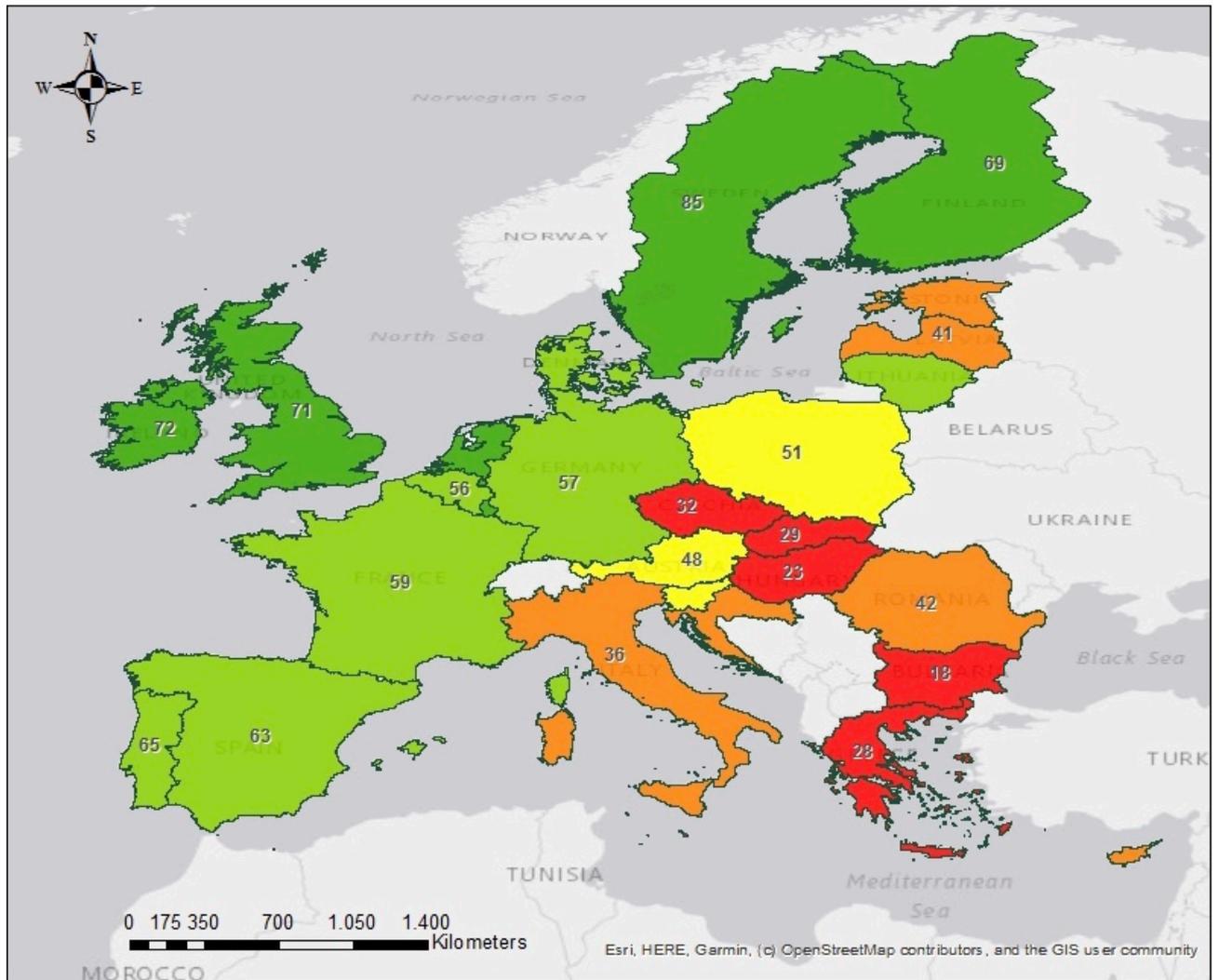
Percentage of positivity

- 66 - 85
- 53 - 65
- 43 - 52
- 33 - 42
- 18 - 32
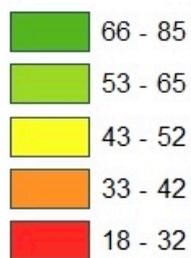
Map 1. View on immigrants per country compared to the survey countries by the general population.

Statistical analysis

A statistical analysis via an ordinal logistical regression has been executed to find variables that can explain the motivations of the students from the survey. Only the variables that show a significant result are being explained below. This statistical analysis is a good way to measure if cultural identity as discussed by Hsueh-Ha Chen (2014), plays a role in the attitude towards non-European identity. The outcomes of all the other variables that were part of the statistical analysis are presented in the appendix.

Athens
The results from the final model shown in table 10 (see appendix) shows that the p-value of the ordinal logistic regression is significant with a value of 0,025. The model has improved the ability to predict the outcome. This outcome rejects the null-hypothesis stating that, the addition of the predictors does not have an impact. The significant parameters are 'attachment to own culture' and 'believes about the proportion of non-European immigrants in the total population'. Shown in table 4.

| attachedtoownculture | -1,582 | ,517 | 9,361 | 1 | ,002 | -2,595 | -,568 |
| believesabouttheproportionofnonEuropeanimmigrantsinthetotalpopul | -,549 | ,239 | 5,268 | 1 | ,022 | -1,018 | -,080 |

Table 4. Significant values of Athens respondents.

The parameter 'attachment to own culture' has a negative coefficient, which means that people who are less attached to their culture are more positive about non-European immigrants coming to their country. This shows that the theory of Hsueh-Ha Chen (2014) that cultural identity plays a role in the attitude towards non-European immigrants coming to Athens. The parameter 'believes about the proportion of non-European immigrants in the total population' has also got a negative coefficient, which means that people who think that there are less non-European immigrants are more positive on non-European immigrants coming to their country.

Leeds
Same as the results of the statistical analysis of students from Athens, the results from the final model shown in table 11 (see appendix) shows that the p-value of the ordinal logistic regression of 0,000 is significant. The model has improved the ability to predict the outcome. This outcome rejects the null-hypothesis stating that, the addition of the predictors does not have an impact. The parameters that are showing a significant result are 'the attachment to own culture' and 'thoughts on how non-European immigrants will change the culture of your country'. See table 5. The parameter 'the attachment to own culture' shows a positive coefficient, which means that people who are more attached to their own culture, are more positive about non-European immigrants coming to their country. The parameter 'thoughts on how non-European immigrants will change the culture of your country' shows a positive coefficient, which means that people who think non-European immigrants will change the culture of their country in a positive way are also more positive about non-European immigrants coming to their country. This also justifies the theory of Hsueh-Ha Chen (2014) that cultural identity plays a role in the attitude towards immigrants.

attachedtoownculture	4,152	1,885	4,852	1	,028	,458	7,846
thoughtsonhownonEuropeani mmigrantswillchangetheculture oftheircou	13,380	5,324	6,316	1	,012	2,945	23,815

Table 5. Significant values of Leeds respondents.

Groningen
Other than the models from Athens and Leeds, the Groningen the ordinal logistic regression shows an insignificant result. The p-value was greater than 0.05 with a value of 0,227 as shown in table 12. (see appendix) Therefore this model could not be used in this research. In this dataset there are no variables that have an impact on the improvement of the model. The reason for this could be the many don't knows that are answered in the survey.

Attitude towards different sorts of immigrants: Kruskal-Wallis test.
To go a little more in depth on the attitude towards non-European immigrants it is already made clear in the theory of Wanner (2002) that immigrants can be distinguished into multiple groups. The groups used in this research are labour migration, family migration asylum-related migration and illegal migration. Unlike the theory of Wanner that immigration in European countries will increase due to the lower birth rate and the need for more labour immigrants, it is clear that at this moment the largest flow comes from immigrants moving to Europe due to problems in countries outside Europe. These different flows are possibly creating different attitudes towards immigrants. To find out how Greece, the Netherlands and the UK think about these groups of immigrants coming to their country a Kruskal-Wallis test is used to compare different ordinal variables. All of the primary data groups have answered on the same questions about immigrants which creates an easy way of comparing these groups on different variables with each other. (Moore, 2005) In the tables presented below the mean ranks per country are showed. The mean rank shows how positive or negative students from Athens, Leeds and Groningen are. The higher the mean rank, the more positive students are. Between the groups there are statistically significant differences. The p-value is smaller than 0,05 in all the four tests.

Ranks

	place of study	N	Mean Rank
opinion on labour immigrants	Athens	70	73,14
	Leeds	37	96,86
	Groningen	40	54,35
	Total	147	

Test Statistics[a,b]

	opinion on labour immigrants
Kruskal-Wallis H	22,528
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,000

a. Kruskal Wallis Test
b. Grouping Variable: place of study

Table 6. Opinion of Athens, Leeds and Groningen students on labour immigrants.

In table 6 is shown the result on the opinion on non-European labour immigrants from Athens Leeds and Groningen. Leeds is scoring the highest mean rank with 96,86, followed by Athens (73,14) and Groningen (54,35). This means that students from Leeds have the most positive opinion towards labour immigrants.

Ranks

	place of study	N	Mean Rank
opinion on family immigrants	Athens	70	82,24
	Leeds	37	79,84
	Groningen	40	54,18
	Total	147	

Test Statistics[a,b]

	opinion on family immigrants
Kruskal-Wallis H	13,462
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,001

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: place of study

Table 7. Opinion of Athens, Leeds and Groningen students on family immigrants.

Regarding to the opinion towards non-European family immigrants (Table 7), Athens has scored the highest mean rank with 82,24. Followed by Leeds (79.84) and Groningen (54,18). The students from Athens are the most positive towards family immigrants while Groningen is the least positive towards family immigrants.

Ranks

	place of study	N	Mean Rank
opinion on asylum related immigrants	Athens	70	72,80
	Leeds	37	95,14
	Groningen	40	56,55
	Total	147	

Test Statistics[a,b]

	opinion on asylum related immigrants
Kruskal-Wallis H	17,820
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,000

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: place of study

Table 8. Opinion of Athens, Leeds and Groningen students on asylum related immigrants.

In table 8 is shown a large difference again between the students. Leeds students are the most positive towards asylum related immigrants with a mean rank of 95,14 while Athens and Groningen are scoring much less with a mean rank of 72,80 (Athens) and 56,55 (Groningen).

Ranks

	place of study	N	Mean Rank
opinion on illegal immigrants	Athens	70	72,43
	Leeds	37	88,49
	Groningen	40	63,35
	Total	147	

Test Statistics[a,b]

	opinion on illegal immigrants
Kruskal-Wallis H	7,685
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,021

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: place of study

Table 9. Opinion of Athens, Leeds and Groningen students on illegal immigrants.

Again, students from Groningen are scoring the lowest mean rank towards immigrants with a score of 63,35. Leeds is scoring the highest with a mean rank of 88,49 while Athens is scoring lower with a mean rank of 72,43 with their opinion towards illegal immigrants. (Table 9)

Especially the low mean ranks from the students of Groningen are surprising showing that this group is not very positive at non-European immigrants. This is contradictory to the theory of Zorlu et al. (2001) in which he states that the Netherlands can be seen as an immigrant country and since then invited many guest workers to supply their demand for the unskilled labour market. Also, the theory of Skiba (2017) suggested a different outcome of the results from the Leeds students. Skiba stated that because of the mass immigration of non-European immigrants in 2014 even was one of the decisions of the UK to leave the EU. The UK feared that their country would be flooded with migrants. Other than the UK and the Netherlands Greece is geographically located on the border of Europe. The UNHCR came in 2019 with the news that Greece is the second largest host of immigrant sea and land arrivals despite the many arrivals Athens students are more positive than the Groningen students which is a surprising outcome. Map 1 showed that the positivity of the general population towards non-European immigrants in the Netherlands is much more positive than in Greece. However, Kruskal-Wallis test shows that students from Greece and the Netherlands are showing the opposite results. In map 1 Greece is scoring one of the lowest positive percentages towards immigrants while the ranks in the Kruskal-Wallis shows that Greece is scoring the highest mean rank or the second highest.

The Kruskal-Wallis test that has been executed can also be compared to map 1. As already discussed before this map showed the positivity towards non-European immigrants of the general population. Especially the differences between the general population and the students of the Netherlands and Greece are very large. In the mean ranks of the Kruskal-Wallis test became clear that students from Groningen are the most negative of the three groups while the general population of the Netherlands scores one of the highest percentages in Europe. The results of Greece are the other way around. The students are very positive towards non-European immigrants while the general population is scoring one of the lowest percentages of positivity in Europe.

6. Conclusion

The aim of this research was to provide more information about the attitude of the students and the general population towards non-European immigrants. To collect the information, the research question: '*What is the attitude of students from Groningen, Athens and Leeds towards non-European immigrants compared to the general opinion in the countries of these cities?*' needed to be answered. The surveys were conducted among students from Athens, Groningen and Leeds, and compared to the secondary data of the general population of these countries.

At first the primary and secondary data groups were compared with their general knowledge. The results showed that in general the students that participated in the survey think that they are overall better informed about integration and immigration than the general population of their country. In table 2 it is possible to conclude that there are large differences between the countries on the question if there are more legally than illegally non-European immigrants in their country. The results of Greece might be explained by the fact how they are influenced by the media and if the media is objective or not. Further research is needed to gain more information about this subject.

To answer the secondary question: '*What are the perceptions of students and the general population on non-European immigrants coming to the EU?*' a descriptive analysis is used to analyse the data from the Eurobarometer (2018). The results in map 1 shows that West-Europe and Northern-Europe are the most positive towards immigrants coming to the EU. These results from the secondary data are compared with the results of the primary data via the mean ranks of the Kruskal-Wallis. The primary data showed that the low mean ranks students from Groningen scored are not as positive as the general population in the Netherlands. The results of Greece are the opposite. The students from Athens scored fairly high mean ranks, while the general population of Greece was very negative towards non-European immigrants. This gives already an answer towards the main research question that the general population of the UK and the Netherlands are the most positive towards non-European immigrants. However, the survey results of the students, shown via the low mean rank are scoring completely different as discussed above. In case of the students, Athens students are more positive than their general population and Groningen students are scoring much lower than their general population.

In order to gain more information on the next sub questions a statistical analysis was needed. Via a logistical ordinal analysis, the following sub questions could be answered. *What are the variables playing a role in the attitudes towards non-European immigrants?* and '*Can there be found possible reasons or motivations for the attitude of students on immigrants with statistical analysis?*' The students from Athens, Groningen and Leeds all showed different parameters that are playing a role in their attitude towards non-European immigrants. Unfortunately, the model of Groningen wasn't significant. This made it impossible to make conclusions about parameters. The significant parameters of Athens were 'attachment to own culture' and 'believes about the proportion of non-European immigrants in the total population'. Both parameters of Athens showed a negative coefficient. This means that people who are less attached to their culture are more positive about non-European immigrants coming to their country. Also, people who think that there are less non-European immigrants are more positive on non-European immigrants coming to their country.

The survey among Leeds students also showed a few parameters to be significant namely 'the attachment to own culture' and 'thoughts on how non-European immigrants will change the culture of your country'. The first parameter 'the attachment to own culture' showed a positive coefficient, this means that people who are more attached to their own culture, are more positive about non-European immigrants coming to their country. There is no clear explanation for this result. The second parameter showed a positive coefficient, which means that people who think non-European immigrants will change the culture of their country in a positive way are also more positive about non-European immigrants coming to their country.

The main conclusion of this research is that the general population of the Netherlands and the UK are the most positive, while the general population of Greece is the least positive. Looking at the attitude of students towards non-European immigrants it is possible to conclude that the students in the UK are just like the general population positive towards non-European immigrants. The students in the Netherlands are the least positive towards non-European immigrants, and less positive than their general population. In Greece the general population is less positive than the students towards non-European immigrants.

Limitations and recommendations

Although the research was done correctly there are a few weaknesses that are found during the process. One of the weaknesses is the survey group. For example, this could be done on a larger European scale with including more countries to create a better image of the attitude of students in multiple countries. Other weaknesses are the number of participants in the survey with a total of around 150 students but also the way the students are collected could be improved. The students from Groningen are completely random chosen but the student from Greece and the UK were all following the same study which is not completely representative as other study directions might think different about the subject of this research. Also using more of the same questions of other researches such as the Eurobarometer could help to gain a more precise image when comparing primary and secondary data.

A recommendation for further research could be how the media is influencing this subject about the attitude towards immigrants and if the media is objective or not. This might have a large influence on people's thoughts on the immigrant subject.

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8. Appendix

Athens ordinal logistic regression Table 10.

Case Processing Summary[a]

		N	Marginal Percentage
view on new non-European immigrants coming to your country	Very negative	2	3,1%
	Negative	4	6,2%
	Neutral	39	60,0%
	Positive	16	24,6%
	Very positive	4	6,2%
Valid		65	100,0%
Missing		6	
Total		71	

a. place of study = Athens

Goodness-of-Fit[a]

	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Pearson	573,969	245	,000
Deviance	121,329	245	1,000

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Athens

Model Fitting Information[a]

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	143,236			
Final	121,329	21,907	11	,025

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Athens

Pseudo R-Square[a]

Cox and Snell	,286
Nagelkerke	,322
McFadden	,153

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Athens

Parameter Estimates[a]

		Estimate	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[viewonnewnonEuropeanimmigrantscomingtoyourcountry = 0]	-6,166	3,052	4,082	1	,043	-12,148	-,184
	[viewonnewnonEuropeanimmigrantscomingtoyourcountry = 1]	-4,833	2,977	2,635	1	,105	-10,669	1,002
	[viewonnewnonEuropeanimmigrantscomingtoyourcountry = 2]	-,856	2,841	,091	1	,763	-6,424	4,713
	[viewonnewnonEuropeanimmigrantscomingtoyourcountry = 3]	1,546	2,901	,284	1	,594	-4,139	7,231
Location	age	,171	,096	3,183	1	,074	-,017	,360
	effectsofnonEuropeanimmigrantsontheeconomyinyourcountry	,136	,287	,223	1	,637	-,427	,699
	attachedtoownculture	-1,582	,517	9,361	1	,002	-2,595	-,568
	believesabouttheproportionofnonEuropeanimmigrantsinthetotalpopul	-,549	,239	5,268	1	,022	-1,018	-,080
	personsthoughtswhethertherearemorenonEuropeanimmigrantswhoaresta	,346	,314	1,214	1	,271	-,270	,962
	growuparea	,066	,388	,029	1	,865	-,694	,826
	politicalorientation	,016	,167	,010	1	,922	-,311	,343
	contactwithnonEuropeanimmigrants	,280	,260	1,168	1	,280	-,228	,789
	doyouthinkthatillegalimmigrantscomingtoyourcountryareformingapro	-,570	,449	1,610	1	,204	-1,451	,310
	religion	,030	,804	,001	1	,970	-1,545	1,605
	thoughtsonhownonEuropeanimmigrantswillchangethecultureoftheircou	,339	,260	1,711	1	,191	-,169	,848

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Athens

Leeds ordinal logistic regression Table 11.

Case Processing Summary[a]

		N	Marginal Percentage
view on new non-European immigrants coming to your country	Neutral	13	35,1%
	Positive	19	51,4%
	Very positive	5	13,5%
Valid		37	100,0%
Missing		0	
Total		37	

a. place of study = Leeds

Goodness-of-Fit[a]

	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Pearson	72,314	61	,152
Deviance	28,725	61	1,000

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Leeds

Model Fitting Information[a]

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	72,536			
Final	28,725	43,811	11	,000

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Leeds

Pseudo R-Square[a]

Cox and Snell	,694
Nagelkerke	,808
McFadden	,604

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Leeds

Parameter Estimates[a]

		Estimate	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
							Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[viewonnewnonEuropeanimmigrantscomingtoyourcountry = 2]	27,465	18,119	2,298	1	,130	-8,047	62,977
	[viewonnewnonEuropeanimmigrantscomingtoyourcountry = 3]	34,971	19,270	3,293	1	,070	-2,799	72,740
Location	age	-,864	,899	,924	1	,336	-2,625	,897
	effectsofnonEuropeanimmigrantsontheeconomyinyourcountry	-1,905	1,033	3,402	1	,065	-3,929	,119
	attachedtoownculture	4,152	1,885	4,852	1	,028	,458	7,846
	believesabouttheproportionofnonEuropeanimmigrantsinthetotalpopul	-2,379	1,382	2,964	1	,085	-5,087	,329
	personsthoughtswhethertherearemorenonEuropeanimmigrantswhoaresta	,680	,549	1,536	1	,215	-,395	1,755
	growuparea	-,529	,934	,321	1	,571	-2,360	1,302
	politicalorientation	,183	,397	,212	1	,645	-,596	,962
	contactwithnonEuropeanimmigrants	-1,252	,716	3,061	1	,080	-2,654	,151
	doyouthinkthatillegalimmigrantscomingtoyourcountryareformingapro	-2,978	1,568	3,606	1	,058	-6,052	,096
	religion	-2,503	1,602	2,440	1	,118	-5,643	,638
	thoughtsonhownonEuropeanimmigrantswillchangethecultureoftheircou	13,380	5,324	6,316	1	,012	2,945	23,815

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Leeds

Groningen ordinal logistic regression Table 12.

Case Processing Summary[a]

		N	Marginal Percentage
view on new non-European immigrants coming to your country	Negative	7	17,9%
	Neutral	26	66,7%
	Positive	6	15,4%
Valid		39	100,0%
Missing		1	
Total		40	

a. place of study = Groningen

Goodness-of-Fit[a]

	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Pearson	64,381	63	,428
Deviance	53,480	63	,798

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Groningen

Model Fitting Information[a]

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	67,593			
Final	53,480	14,113	11	,227

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Groningen

Pseudo R-Square[a]

Cox and Snell	,304
Nagelkerke	,369
McFadden	,209

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Groningen

Parameter Estimates[a]

		Estimate	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[viewonnewnonEuropeanimmigrantscomingtoyourcountry = 1]	-1,137	8,077	,020	1	,888	-16,968	14,693
	[viewonnewnonEuropeanimmigrantscomingtoyourcountry = 2]	3,335	8,129	,168	1	,682	-12,597	19,267
Location	age	-,194	,301	,415	1	,519	-,783	,396
	effectsofnonEuropeanimmigrantsontheeconomyinyourcountry	,191	,468	,167	1	,683	-,725	1,107
	attachedtoownculture	-,392	,627	,390	1	,532	-1,620	,837
	believesabouttheproportionofnonEuropeanimmigrantsinthetotalpopul	1,531	,718	4,548	1	,033	,124	2,938
	personsthoughtswhethertherearemorenonEuropeanimmigrantswhoaresta	,319	,455	,492	1	,483	-,573	1,210
	growuparea	,969	,697	1,929	1	,165	-,398	2,336
	politicalorientation	-,283	,219	1,671	1	,196	-,712	,146
	contactwithnonEuropeanimmigrants	-,223	,463	,231	1	,630	-1,131	,685
	doyouthinkthatillegalimmigrantscomingtoyourcountryareformingapro	-,333	,939	,126	1	,723	-2,173	1,506
	religion	,591	,842	,493	1	,483	-1,059	2,242
	thoughtsonhownonEuropeanimmigrantswillchangethecultureoftheircou	,704	,493	2,033	1	,154	-,264	1,671

Link function: Logit.

a. place of study = Groningen

Questionnaire

Hello,

My name is Ewoud Zomer and I am studying at the University of Groningen (the Netherlands). I am doing my research on the attitude towards non-European immigrants among the students from Groningen, Athens and Leeds. I would like to ask you a few questions about this subject. Your answers will be anonymous and not used in anything besides this research.

What is your nationality?

Dutch   Greek   British   other

What is your religion?

Christian   Muslim Jewish   Other religion   No religion

How attached are you to your own culture?

Very attached   Somewhat attached   Not very attached   Not attached at all

Do you have family members who are non-European immigrants?

Yes   No

To what extent do you think you are well informed on the subjects immigration and integration, for example with education, the news or other channels?

Very informed   fairly well Informed   Not very well informed   Not

informed at all   Don't know

What do you think is the proportion of non-European immigrants in the total population of your country?

0% to 6%   6% to 12%   12% to 25%   25% or more   Don't know

What is your view about non-European immigrants coming to your country?

Very positive   Positive   Neutral   Negative   Very negative

In general, do you think there are more non-European immigrants who are staying legally than illegally in your country?

More legally   More illegally   The same amount of legal and illegally   Don't know

How often do you have contact with non-European immigrants? (from having a small talk to doing activities together)

Daily   Weekly   Monthly   Less than monthly   Don't know

In what way do you think non-European immigrants will change the culture of your country?

Very positive   Positive   Neutral   Negative   Very Negative   Not at all

What is your general opinion of different sorts of immigration?

Labour immigrants	Very positive	Positive	neutral	Negative	Very Negative

Family immigrants	Very positive	Positive	neutral	Negative	Very Negative

Asylum related immigrants	Very positive	Positive	neutral	Negative	Very Negative
Illegal immigrants	Very positive	Positive	neutral	Negative	Very Negative

Do you think the increase of non-European immigrants in your country will…?

Strengthen the economy of your country   Weaken the economy of your country

Neutral   Don't know

Do you believe that illegal immigrants that are coming to your country are forming a problem?

Very serious   Somewhat serious   Not very serious   No problem at all

Do you think that in the future we create a totally new culture, multiculturalism or a combination of existing cultures? For example, a combination of a non-European culture with a European culture.

One totally new culture   Multiculturalism   Combination of existing cultures

Some final questions:

Where are you currently studying?

Groningen   Athens   Leeds

What is your age?

…………………………………………..

What is your gender?

Male   Female   Other

Which of the following describes best the area you grew up in:

Urban   Suburban   Rural

What is your political orientation?

Liberal   0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   conservative

Have you ever participated in an international student exchange programme? For example Erasmus or Marco Polo.

Yes   No

Thank you very much for participating.