



MEDITERRANEAN CITY-TO-CITY MIGRATION

# CITY MIGRATION PROFILE

## LYON

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This document is a synthesis of the Metropolitan City of Lyon Migration Profile and Priority Paper drafted in the framework of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project (MC2CM). The project aims at contributing to improved migration governance at city level in a network of cities in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region. More information is available at [www.icmpd.org/MC2CM](http://www.icmpd.org/MC2CM).

GENERAL OVERVIEW (2012)	
<b>Political and administrative context</b>	Local authority with a special status sharing the same responsibilities as a metropolis and a department
<b>Population</b>	1 333 618 (2013)
<b>Share in national urban population</b>	3,9%
<b>Foreigners as a proportion of the metropolitan city population</b>	9.3 %
<b>Foreign-born as a proportion of the metropolitan city population</b>	17,6%



## MIGRATION PATTERNS

The city of Lyon has 180,445 immigrants on its territory (people born abroad and living in France who may subsequently acquire French nationality), i.e., slightly over 13% of its total population in 2012 (1.3 million inhabitants). With a rate higher than the average national rate (11.4%), the city is arguably one of the main immigrant reception centres in France. Its long migration history can be summarised as follows:

- end of 19<sup>th</sup> Century until 1910, the Lyon Metropolis receives the first wave of Italians, followed by another in between World Wars, as well as labourers from Poland, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Armenia
- mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, after the end of Second World War, increased need for workforce. Joining unto the continued immigration from Europe, new migratory flows from the Mediterranean region, particularly from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia
- the 1970s are characterized by immigration from Maghreb, Eastern Europe and Asia, as well as new migratory flows from Sub-Saharan Africa
- finally, after 1980s, the Metropolis receives immigration from Africa and Europe and, more recently, from the Middle East

23% of the immigrant population in the city can be found in four districts (3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>), primarily along the left bank of the Rhône. In the metropolitan area, half of the immigrant population resides in ten neighbourhoods located just South and East of Lyon (including Vaulx-en-Velin, Saint-Fons and Vénissieux).

## MIGRANT POPULATION

Immigrants from the Maghreb represent 40% of the entire immigrant population in the metropolitan area. There has been a decline in the number of European immigrants (30%); Italian immigrants represent 15% of all immigrants over 55 but just 4% under 25. Other immigration countries, mainly in Asia, currently represent 14% of the total immigrant population in the metropolitan city, and immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa represent 11%.



With median ages of 66 and 61 years old respectively, immigrants from Italy and Spain are the oldest immigrant populations, and with a median age of 34, those from Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa are the youngest. The immigrant population has become increasingly feminised following the shift in migration patterns observed in the 2000s. This shift has been driven by family-based immigration. Female immigrants are now the majority (51.7%).


Immigrants residing in the Metropolitan City, more often than non-immigrants, work as labourers (26% compared to 14%) and, to a lesser extent, as employees (31% compared to 27%). Immigrants are less represented in intermediary professions and managerial positions.

The share of active population is slightly lower for immigrants – 57% of immigrants as compared to 60% of non-immigrants. The unemployment rates, however, are much higher among immigrants than non-immigrants with an unemployment rate of 13% and 7% respectively, according to the national statistics office, INSEE (19% and 10% according to Eurostat).

In general, the immigrants in the Lyon Metropolis have less educational attainment than non-immigrants. 46% of immigrants do not have a school leaving certificate, compared to 21% of non-immigrants. Only 38% of immigrants have qualifications higher than a high school diploma compared to 46% of non-immigrants. The proportion of immigrants with school diploma varies widely depending on the immigrants' country of origin.

## **MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION**

In France there is no local migration policy as this is a regulatory function assumed by the State. Notwithstanding, local public policies have made it possible to take indirect action using thematic regulatory instruments. This is the case of the city housing policy, employment and insertion support, social interventions, actions undertaken by the Community Centre for Social Action (CCAS), etc. All these actions help improve discrimination-related situations often linked to immigration.



For more than 30 years, the Metropolitan City of Lyon has led proactive urban and housing policies in an attempt to fight social and spatial segregation that indirectly affects its migrant population, which is over-represented in certain areas.

Urban policy (all measures targeting so-called “problem neighbourhoods” in which there are frequent instances of poverty, unemployment and exclusion, and where the majority of newly arrived immigrants can be found) has led to the development of social inclusion actions through education, training, employment, crime prevention, health, culture, and the integration of neighbourhoods into the city through more or less ambitious urban redevelopment actions. Urban regeneration initiatives implemented since 2003 have helped cast these neighbourhoods in a more positive light, improved living conditions, and have also encouraged greater diversity within them. Meanwhile, traditional social housing quarters that have not been subject to regeneration schemes still house a high concentration of populations in difficult economic and social circumstances and continue to play a fundamental role by acting as reception centres for disadvantaged or immigrant populations.

With regards to migration issues, the commitment to equality has led public actors to promote a policy which facilitates or encourages diversity, solidarity and the full participation of all inhabitants in the life of their city.

## Migration governance stakeholders at local level

<p><b>Prefecture</b></p>	<p>Political representation of central authority at local level. Responsible for ensuring laws are respected, implementing decrees and managing territorial governments.</p> <p>With respect to immigration, ensuring the implementation of the following laws:            Law of 7 March 2016 on the rights of foreigners in France, Visas, the immigration of skilled workers, family immigration, residence of foreign students, sick foreigners and their carers, other types of residence permits, fight against irregular immigration and undeclared work</p>
<p><b>Lyon Metropolis</b></p>	<p>Main competences: urban planning, housing, economic development and insertion and solidarity (including unaccompanied minors). With regards to social cohesion, acts mainly in the region's neighbourhoods (where the majority of the immigrant population can be found) in an attempt to narrow the gaps with the rest of the region (education, culture, services, etc.), encourage diversity, and provide quality living conditions</p>
<p><b>City of Lyon</b></p>	<p>Can use either proactive approaches to improve immigrants' inclusion or voluntary approaches to improve migrant access to general social services</p>

**Local non - governmental organisations active in the areas of migration and integration in the city\***

<p><b>Médecins du monde</b></p>	<p>Reception of migrants irrespective of legal status and whether or not they have health coverage within the reception centres, healthcare and guidance during which the association offers care and supports immigrants in administrative procedures to help them obtain the health coverage to which they are entitled and directs them towards public health structures.</p> <p>Organises mobile outreach services to reach out to these immigrants where they live (nursing, medical consultations, prevention, screening, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Refugee forum</b></p>	<p>Welcomes asylum seekers and refugees from all backgrounds, defends asylum rights, promotes refugees' conditions for integration, helps foreigners exercise their rights and fights against discrimination.</p> <p>Privileged interlocutor for local, national, European and international authorities relative to negotiations about the best conditions for the reception and integration of refugees, the promotion and defense of human rights, and respect for the rule of law</p>
<p><b>Veille Sociale</b></p>	<p>Provides solutions to people in need of emergency shelter by ensuring immediate and unconditional shelter without discrimination. Relies on the official social number (115), mobile teams, SAMU social, day-shelters and emergency accommodation shelters.</p> <p>It directs migrants towards reception and accommodation centres and assists them with the associated administrative, social, medical, and educational issues</p>

<p><b>Migration santé Rhône-Alpes</b></p>	<p>Advises and trains health professionals in contact with refugees and migrant populations. Helps protect and promote the health status of immigrants and their families in accordance with their autonomy and their right to healthcare</p>
<p><b>Adoma</b></p>	<p>An actor of integration through housing, Adoma proposes suitable housing solutions for the employed, unemployed, singles or families experiencing economic or insertion difficulties and unable to find accommodation in traditional housing models</p>
<p><b>Aralis</b></p>	<p>Offers short-term accommodation to migrant workers, people in isolation, single parents, and families seeking asylum. This type of accommodation acts as a stepping stone towards inclusion through housing which the NGO views as a common right. Provides accommodation and accompaniment to asylum seekers at local level</p>
<p><b>CIMADE</b></p>	<p>Defends the dignity and the human rights of refugees and migrants. Has a hotline, houses immigrants, monitors migrants held in detention centres or in prison, and offers information services</p>

\* non-exhaustive list





## **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Coordination and cooperation services at the regional and national levels**

At State level, the Departmental Prefectures issue residence permits in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Interior. In the Lyon Metropolis, as in every Department, a committee (in which a mayor and two "qualified persons" participate) is convened regularly. This committee performs a consultative role for the dossiers for which the Prefecture foresees an unfavourable response, when necessary residency permit conditions are fulfilled.

A steering group made up of State, metropolitan area and municipality, coordinates and controls the Lyon's city policy at the Lyon Metropolis level, which specifically targets neighbourhoods in which the proportion of immigrants is generally quite high.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Lyon and Setif (Algeria) have developed a partnership based on the strong ties they share and the established relationship between the residents in the two regions: 60% of the Algerians in Lyon are originally from the greater region of Setif.

The cooperation is based on green spaces, public lighting, urban planning and the development of economic relations. Since 2010, numerous management training missions have been organised in Setif and interns have carried out their internships in Lyon. This networking has given rise to technical exchanges between partners in both regions.

An event held at the Place Bellecour over a two-day period highlights the wealth and diversity of each and every continent. The event brings together 49 diplomatic missions across the city and numerous associations participate in it. Traditional and modern fashion shows, musical shows, dances, exhibitions and other artistic activities are presented and enhance the value of all of Lyon's inhabitants from different countries and different cultures.



## **PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION**

Prejudices against immigrants are commonplace. In Lyon as elsewhere, these perceptions are sometimes articulated. Fears, in particular of foreigners and foreign things, are expressed. In some instances this translates into hate discourse and voicing of xenophobic ideologies by political groups and citizens alike. The Metropolitan City's actions against discrimination as well as all of its initiatives on social inclusion, diversity, equal opportunities and the reduction of social inequalities form part of the fight against the prejudices foreigners and immigrants face. Civil society also takes part in this reflection on the role of communication at global and local levels (the Cimade, the regional network TRACES).


## **ACCESS TO SERVICES IN THE METROPOLIS OF LYON**

Access to the city's and Metropolis' services is based on the principle of equal treatment between foreign residents and French nationals. Although it is not based on nationality, the regularity of one's stay can have an impact on the response an individual receives but not on the access to information about available services.

With the exception of young unaccompanied minors, there are no specific services for immigrants or foreigners. All services under the management of the Lyon Metropolis and the municipality cater to all people. However, associations and citizens are sometimes involved in actions specifically targeting immigrants in a manner that complements existing services or other forms of actions.

Thus, in the field of education, the city of Lyon has a medical and social service that plays a social supervisory role in schools while the Metropolis ensures the management of colleagues, in line with the State which provides access to school for all children aged 6 – 16 years in its territory. Associations (CLASSES, ASET) act as special mediators for certain groups of immigrants who encounter difficulties.

With regard to access to employment, the Metropolis is responsible for economic inclusion, particularly through active solidarity income (RSA in French acronym) and actions for employment. Alongside the City of Lyon, the metropolitan area supports



a group of actors in promoting the economic inclusion of all. Moreover associative networks (SINGA) or specific measures (AccelAir de Forum Réfugiés) can propose complementary measures to help migrants in regular situation to access employment opportunities.

The Houses of the Metropole (Maisons de la Métropole) provide access to services in the field of social affairs, notably social inclusion and access to housing for families in vulnerable situations. The Community Centres for Social Action (CCAS) within the region's municipalities are responsible for implementing optional social assistance, particularly forwarding mail services for the homeless. Numerous associations are involved in providing social assistance to migrants in the form of various support services, help with administrative procedures, clothing donations, etc.

Accommodation (emergency, CADA reception centres for asylum seekers, and others) is under the responsibility of the State. Although unconditional shelter is provided, housing inclusion, for instance through access to social housing, is dependent on resources (and indirectly on the right of residence). Accommodation and housing is a sensitive area, with the Metropolis authority participating in housing policy and building of social housing in particular, and associations supporting access to normal accommodation channels and in some instances managing inclusion shelters on behalf of State authorities.

The Metropolis manages maternal and child protection services (pregnancy, young parents, prevention services, etc.). Within the health field, it applies health insurance or, specifically, State medical aid for immigrant in irregular situation which enables access to healthcare for all individuals, even if mediation is required (permanent access to health care from hospitals and from the Médecins du Monde services).

Furthermore, the Metropolis and the city involve residents in participatory practices such as neighbourhood or development councils. They fight misconceptions about immigrants, undertake activities against discrimination and support forms of communication and reflection which also act as a citizen and institutional movement for the reception of migrants.



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[www.icmpd.org/MC2CM](http://www.icmpd.org/MC2CM)

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