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The integration of Czech compatriots in Germany
Integrace českých krajanů v Německu

Diploma thesis

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Prague, 2024

Declaration

I hereby declare that the work presented in this thesis is my own and that I have cited all the sources and literature used therein. Neither this thesis nor its substantial part was used to acquire a different or identical academic title or degree.

Prohlášení

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V Praze dne 12.12.2024

Bc. David Knapek

.....

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Abstract

The aim of this thesis was to inspect how Czech compatriots integrate in Germany, as the topic is still scientifically quite under-researched. The thesis consists of a combination of quantitative analysis which is supported by a theoretical framework regarding community formation and integration theories. The theoretical framework provides an overview over important assimilation theories such as the classic assimilation theory, the new assimilation theory and the segmented assimilation theory. It also discusses transnationalism and diaspora to highlight the multi-layered and complex nature of the topic. The quantitative analysis is based on data from six selected countries (N=669), but mainly uses data regarding Czech compatriots in Germany (N=115). This includes the impact of socioeconomic data, the country of residence, the respondents transnational characteristics and different integration dimensions on the integration process. The outcomes are compared to the Polish and Turkish minorities, two major foreign ethnic groups in Germany, which are heavily analyzed by scholars. To summarize, the thesis presents a well-integrated Czech compatriot group in Germany, while portraying strong transnational characteristics, an interaction worth monitoring in further integration research. Important aspects of all three assimilation theories are reflected in the thesis, as the respondents length of stay increases most integration dimensions as does the respondents social status. Also, an integration process without full assimilation is portrayed in the thesis.

Keywords:

Czech compatriots in Germany, Diaspora, Integration, Transnationalism

Abstrakt

Cílem této diplomové práce bylo zkoumat integraci českých krajanů v Německu, která doposud zůstávala vědecky poměrně nezpracovaná. Výsledná kvantitativní analýza je podepřena teoretickým rámcem zabývajícím se formováním komunity a integračními teoriemi. Teoretická část poskytuje nejprve přehled důležitých asimilačních teorií, jako jsou klasická, nová a segmentovaná teorie. Poté vymezuje základní pojmy, se kterými se bude nadále pracovat, a to především pojmy transnacionalismus a diaspora. Tento konceptuální rámec pomáhá pochopit mnohovrstevnost a komplexitu celého tématu. Kvantitativní analýza je založená na datech z dotazníkového šetření v šesti vybraných zemích (N=669), přičemž primárně využívá data za české krajany v Německu (N=115). Zpracována jsou socioekonomická data, země trvalého pobytu, transnacionální charakteristiky respondentů a různé další integrační aspekty. Výsledky jsou porovnávány s dvěma hlavními etnickými skupinami v Německu, polskou a tureckou, které jsou vědci důkladně prozkoumány. Tato diplomová práce prezentuje dobře integrovanou skupinu českých krajanů v Německu a zobrazuje jejich silné transnacionální vazby. Vzájemné působení sledává hodné podrobnějšího zkoumání v dalších integračních výzkumech. V práci se odrážejí důležité aspekty všech tří asimilačních teorií, jelikož délka pobytu respondentů zvyšuje stupeň integrace u většiny dimenzí, stejně jako jejich sociální status. Práce poukazuje na to, že zde probíhá integrační proces bez úplné asimilace.

Klíčová slova:

Čeští krajané v Německu; Diaspora; Integrace; Transnacionalizace

List of Acronyms

AfD	Alternative für Deutschland – German far right wing party
BfA	Bundesagentur für Arbeit – German Federal Employment Agency
BMI	Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat
CAT	Classic assimilation theory
EU	European Union
GAČR	Czech grant agency
NAT	New assimilation theory
NUVIT	National Institute for Innovative Technologies Research
SAT	Segmented assimilation theory
WASP	White Anglo-Saxon Protestant

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Appendix

Questionnaire of the project "Česká diaspora – multidimenzionální vztahy a podmíněnosti Česka a cílových zemí"

Dotazník k projektu „Česká diaspora – multidimenzionální vztahy a podmíněnosti Česka a cílových zemí“

1. Migrants as scapegoats for current political and societal indifferences

A general shift towards more right-wing politics can be seen in the last few years in the general elections of many European countries as well as the US. Boonen and her colleagues point towards rising voting patterns for right wing activists since the 1980s, with an especially large increase in the last decade (Boonen et al 2022).

In Germany, the emergence of the “Alternative für Deutschland” short AfD can be credited to multiple reasons. Discontent with current politics, economic hardship, the loss of cultural values and indifferences about the conception of social justice are leading factors for the rise of the AfD. Migration and migrants are often credited to be the root cause for these problems (Boonen 2022, Buchmayr 2023). Through the use of social media, as well as through traditional means of communication, right wing politicians create negative images of migration and migrants, often through negative connotations of them and current societal difficulties (Boonen 2022). Furthermore, accusations regarding the connectivity of foreigners, violence and crime can be found in many speeches and comments of right-wing politicians. These are often connected to the Religion of Islam and in Germany they aim especially at refugees from the middle east and immigrants from Turkey (ibid.) Overall public opinion towards migration has changed though too, and the government reacts accordingly with restrictive migration policies and stronger regulation (Franzke 2022). On the other hand, Germany’s need for skilled and unskilled labor requires the government to ease restrictions and make the German labor market attractive for skilled personnel (ibid.).

Can integration be the solution to the defusal of anti-immigration sentiments and solve both the economic needs of the German government and industry and societal acceptance for migrants?

While immigration from countries with Muslim majorities is often scrutinized, many scholars believe that intraeuropean migration does not impose any challenges onto German or other Western European societies (Franzke 2022).

While intraeuropean migration and the following integration certainly follows a smoother path, integration is defined as “a generations lasting process of inclusion and acceptance of migrants in the core institutions, relations and statuses of the receiving society“ Heckmann (2006, p 18). Furthermore, Heckmann emphasizes that integration is an interactive process, created by the process of learning a new culture, the acquisition of rights, creating access to positions and statuses and the building of personal relations to members of the receiving society. Finally,

integration even refers to the formation of feelings of belonging and identification with the host society (ibid.). These processes cannot simply be ignored just because of free movement inside the EU.

Therefore, the integration of Czech compatriots in Germany will undergo analysis in this thesis. The analysis is necessary to close the current research gap as increasing numbers of Czech compatriots migrate to Germany. Besides, personal interest and experience have led me to this subject.

This leads us to the following three research questions and their respective hypotheses.

Q1: How do transnational characteristics influence the integration paths of Czech compatriots in Germany?

Based on the current understanding of the concepts of transnationalism (Tan et al. 2018, Tedeschi et al. 2022, Vertovec 2003) and diaspora (Brubaker 2005; Grossman 2019; Janská et al. 2024a), I expect a transnational lifestyle from the well-integrated Czech compatriots in Germany.

Q2: How do selected variables, such as socioeconomic characteristics, length of stay and others, of Czech compatriots and selected external influences impact their integration process in Germany, how they reproduce current assimilation theories, and how do they compare to other selected countries? (USA, France and GB for EU, Australia, New Zealand)

I expect Czech compatriots to integrate well into society in Germany, as well as in other western countries according to assimilation theories such as the segmented and new assimilation theory (Karimi 2023), due to high social status, increasing length of stay and high education levels. Respondents from Europe might show heightened transnational behavior.

2. History of Czech migration to Germany

As the connection between these two countries is influenced by their shared history, a short overview will follow to create a clearer picture of the migration history in the region.

The first larger documented emigration wave from Czech lands to Germany happened after the defeat of the protestant army near Prague during the 30 years' war. Czech protestant leaders had to leave the country and fled to protestant countries in the German lands. Further religious emigration was documented in the 18th century to Prussia, when Friedrich II invited Czech protestants for free religious worship opportunities, and where the Czech migrants established villages like Czech Rixdorf (Huttenlocher 2020, Broucek 2017).

In the 19th century, migration arose due to marginal economic conditions in the Habsburg Monarchy. Between 1850 and the First World War, more than 1.2 million emigrants left Bohemia with around 200 000 moving to Germany. Most of them were craftsmen and their families from poorer social groups, especially miners who moved to the Ruhr region for better pay and social housing. These then founded various Czech workers or cultural associations to protect their interests, language and culture. Due to economic struggles and the establishment of Czechoslovakia, these numbers decreased as some workers migrated back to their homeland, or, in larger quantities, moved to France and Belgium. In the year 1925, around 220 000 Czech compatriots were counted in the national census in Germany, of whom the most used German as their main language. Another migration movement happened during World War II, when many Czech nationals were called to work in German factories, with many of them being forcibly displaced (Huttenlocher 2020, Broucek 2017).

Shortly after the end of World War II, ethnic Germans, as well as some other ethnicities, were expelled from the Czech border regions. According to Drbohlav (Drbohlav et al 2009) the number had risen to around 2.8 million emigrants, which left the affected regions severely depopulated. On the other hand, many of the forcibly displaced Czechs moved back to Czechia after the war (Huttenlocher 2020).

The two main emigration waves of ethnic Czechs, except for the ones after World War II and the end of the socialist era, happened in the years 1948 and 1968 and their aftermath (Drbohlav et al 2009). They both followed political changes, first after the rise of communism and later the after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet army. As it was unlawful to leave the country, especially to non-socialist countries, without official approval by state officials, emigrants who fled the regime automatically lost their citizenship and therefore became stateless. This led western countries to accept them as political refugees (Huttenlocher 2020), while many emigrated due to economic as well as political reasons. In

total around 440 000 to 500 000 people emigrated, or fled, during this period of time in total, of whom many fled to Western Germany (Drbohlav et al 2009).

2.1 The new migration

After the fall of the iron curtain in 1989, a new migration wave arose. The migrants, mostly young people, left Czechia and moved to the US and Western Europe, with Germany being one of the main destinations (Huttenlocher 2020). Notably, these migrants were characterized by the search for professional experience and for different cultural experience instead for political, economic or social reasons to migrate (Broucek 2017). Another difference to traditional migration trajectories was the average presumed length of stay wanted by migrants from Czechia (Wallace 2002). According to a survey from IOM in the year 1998, Wallace claims that only 6% of Czechs wanted to move permanently abroad. Germany even reacted to the trend and began to offer short term temporary work programs and opportunities, especially in the service and construction sector. Due to this fact and the direct border between Germany and Czechia, Germany became one of the main destinations for circular migrants (ibid.).

The highpoint of this particular migration wave has reached its peak in the first years after Czech independence but quickly declined (Wallace 2002).

Due to the fear of a large influx of migrants from Eastern Europe after the EU eastward enlargement, many states made use of a transitional period to control the movement of workers during the first years (Vavrečková 2006). Germany and Austria, decided to enforce more strict immigration rules for the maximum possible extent of time, namely for seven years. Other states, such as the UK and Ireland opened their economic markets instantly after the EU enlargement of 2004. This led to multiple effects. Firstly, migration slightly decreased in the year 2005. Secondly, more Czechs considered migration as a viable option to improve their living standards. Thirdly, the preferred country of destination became the UK and migration to Germany decreased. And lastly, the premise regarding the average length of stay away from Czechia decreased even further (ibid.).

As reason for the decrease of migration from Czechia to Germany, Vavrečková (2006) showcases the example of Spain's, Portugal's and Greece's entry into the EU, where the other EU countries also created barriers to protect their labor markets from an immigration wave. The overall immigrant flow decreased from these countries as the economy grew substantially after their entry into the EU and work opportunities arose at home.

Migration tendencies after 2011 depict slow rises during the second decade of the 21st century, but stagnating and even partially decreasing numbers after the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis

as Figure 1 shows (Statista 2022). Circular migration is still one of the main trends as can be seen in Figure 3.

Later I will shortly portray the migration waves from the German perspective, especially regarding integration aspects.

3. General descriptive data regarding current Czech compatriots in Germany

Furthermore, a general overview over today's migration flows and numbers in the given area is necessary to be able to see the bigger picture of the current and intense migration topic.

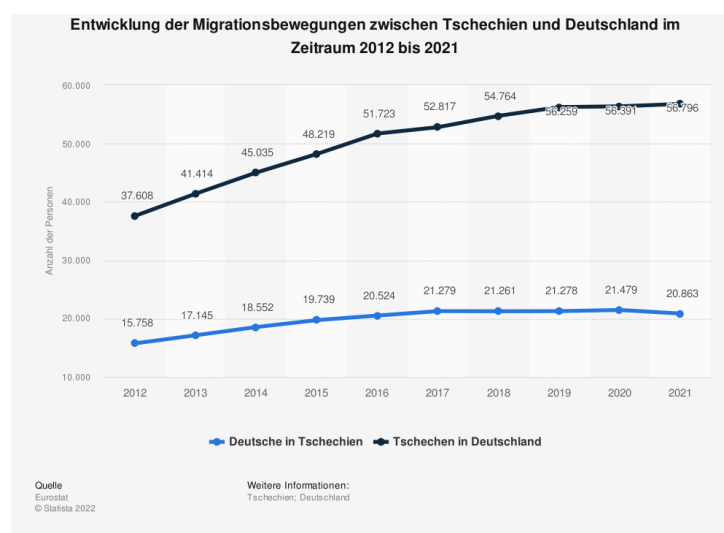
This chapter's aim is to present some current statistical information about Czech nationals in Germany to showcase the need for research regarding their integration into German society, in light of recent political changes and the glaring need for research regarding this topic.

I mainly used DESTATIS, the German federal office for statistics, but also looked into other sources such as Eurostat, Statista or the German federal Agency for labor. I then compared the numbers to the data published on the website Čeští krajané (www.cestikrajane.cz).

As the numbers differ heavily, it is important to note that there were different definitions and different questions asked to conduct the surveys which are now included in this thesis.

According to Statista (Statista 2022), which has these data from Eurostat, there are close to 56 800 Czech citizens living in Germany as can be seen in Figure 1. There is a clear positive trend of migration from Czechia to Germany, but the numbers have flattened in the last few years. The statistic also shows the number of German citizens currently living in Czechia.

Figure 1 Development of migration movements between the Czech Republic and Germany in the period of 2012 to 2021



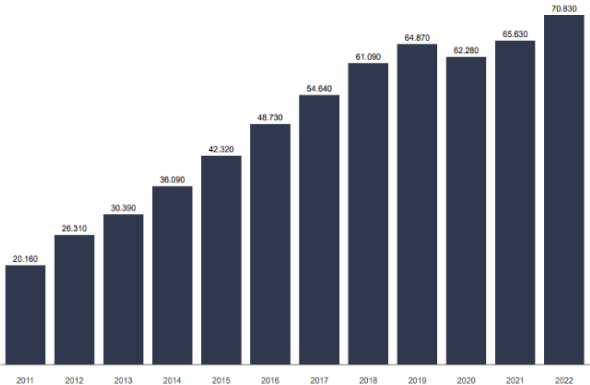
Source: Statista 2022

It is interesting to note, that the numbers of Czech citizens working in Germany, shown in Figure 2, is higher than the total number of Czech nationals in the country. This might be due to circular work migration along the border or due to different statistical data etc. Noticeable is

the rise of about 350%, from around 20 000 to more than 70 000 workers of Czech origin being employed in the German market since 2011 till 2022. Again, the numbers flatten out in the last few years, and there even was a decline in numbers from 2020 to 2021.

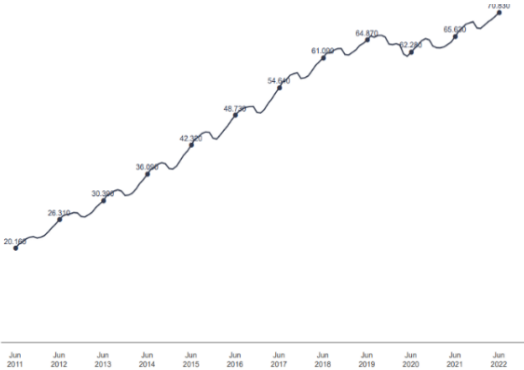
A closer look at Figure 3, there are also yearly differences, as the numbers rise steadily during the year but drop slightly around Christmas and New Year. The data for the following 3 graphs were provided by the German Agency for Labor (BfA 2023).

Figure 2 Czech laborforce in Germany (2011-2022)



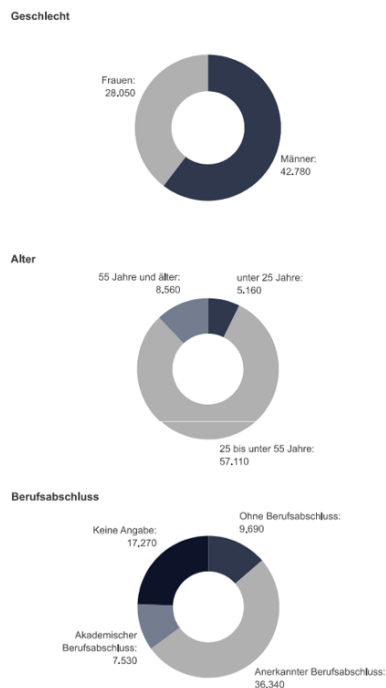
Source: BfA 2023

Figure 3 Czech laborforce in Germany (2011-2022)



Source: BfA 2023

Figure 4 Sociodemographic indicators of Czech workers in Germany



Source: BfA 2023

There is even sociodemographic data showing the percentage of sex, age and education for Czech workers in Germany.

The first chart of Figure 4 shows how the total number of Czech workers in Germany are divided by their Gender. Around 60% of them are male, 40% female with no other gender being pictured. The second chart shows their age structure, with most of them being in the productive phase of their lives. Around 80% of them are between 25 and 55 years old, with only marginal numbers below 25 years and above 55 years of age. The last indicator measured is their education. Around 50% of them do have a recognized professional qualification, around 25% did not specify their qualification and around 12% had no qualification or an academic diploma.

The data in Figure 5 from the official statistical federal office of Germany show that there are 65 665 Czech nationals living in Germany, of which around 55% are women (FSO 2024). Additional 2365 people migrated from former Czechoslovakia to Germany. The number of Czech compatriots is minimal if compared to the total number of nearly 14 million foreigners living in Germany. This can especially be seen in relation to the number of Polish and Turkish immigrants, as nearly 900 000 Polish citizens and more than 1.5 million Turkish citizens live in Germany.

Figure 5 Number of foreign citizens in Germany

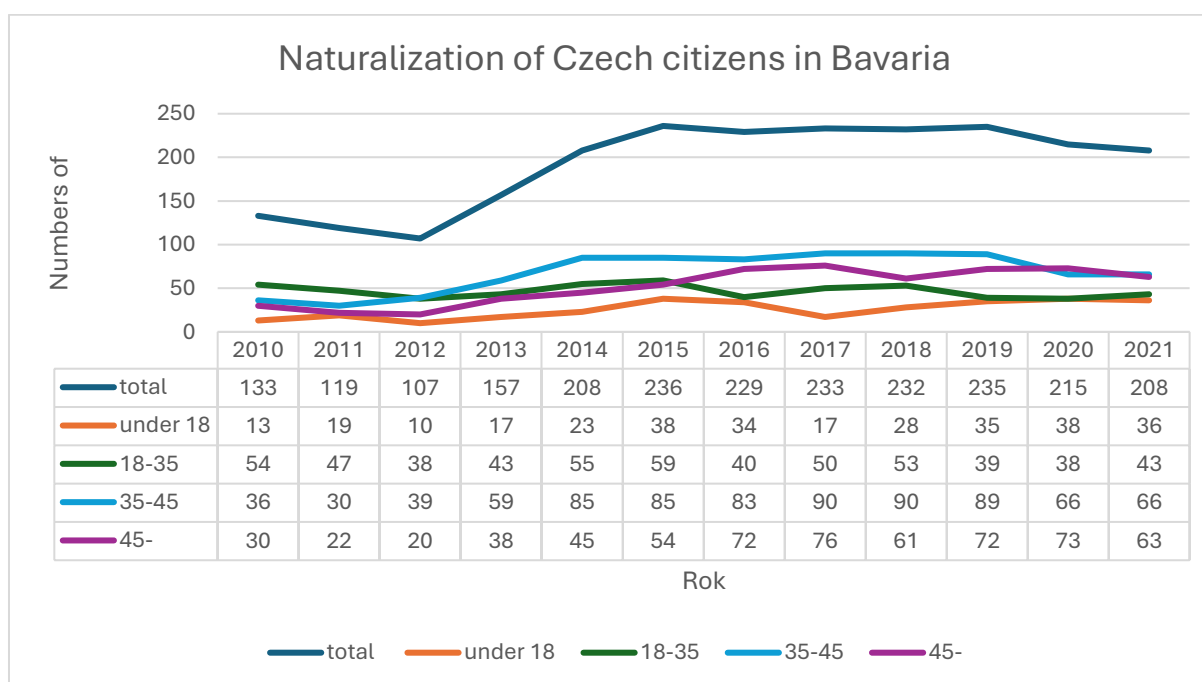
Reference date citizenship		Gender		
		Male	Female	Total
2023-12-31	Total	7305525	6590340	13895865
	including:			
	Poland	472655	415060	887715
	Czechia	29500	36165	65665
	Czechoslovakia (until 1992-12-31)	1150	1215	2365
	Turkey	815940	732155	1548095
Until 1989-12-31: Former territory of the Federal Republic.				
© Federal Statistical Office, Wiesbaden 2024 created: 2024-12-04 / 19:16:00				

Source: FSO (2024)

If you take data from the state level in Germany, you can find even further information. Figure 6 shows numbers regarding the naturalization of Czech citizens in Bavaria from 2010 till 2021 (Bayrisches Landesamt für Statistik 2022). The general trend is positive until 2019 and decreases slightly since then. A similar curve reflects the largest total age group of 35 to 45 years old at the time of naturalization. The oldest age group, of 45 years of age and more is mostly increasing, the 18-35 years old peaked in 2015, similarly to the group of 0-18 years of age.

Interesting to note is the fact that double citizenship is allowed, which means that those people can still be part of the numbers of Czech citizens in Germany as reflected in the upper tables.

Figure 6 Naturalization of Czechs in Bavaria



Source: Bayrisches Landesamt für Statistik 2022

After initially analyzing data from German sources for immigration, I now also want to explore data from Czech sources to include all important information.

The website *čeští krajane* (2024) sets the number of Czech nationals from around 60 000 to 200 000, which reflects the given data as the lower represents quite accurately the official German numbers on this topic while the ceiling accounts for people who have Czech ancestry but maybe do not have Czech citizenship anymore (*Čeští krajane* 2024). The lower number does probably reflect the actual Czech citizenship holders in Germany, while higher estimates include descendants of Czech nationals without Czech citizenship and other people who have Czech roots.

The next table shows the total numbers of Czech citizens living in each German federal state. More than 40 percent of them live in Bavaria, followed by Saxony and Baden-Wuerttemberg with around 11 percent. More than half of the Czech citizens in Germany therefore live in the two states directly bordering Czechia. Only marginal numbers of Czech citizens live in some smaller German states such as Bremen and Saarland while economically or demographically significant states such as Hessen, Baden-Wuerttemberg and North Rhein-Westfalia enjoy numbers of four to seven thousand Czech citizens. The data was also taken from Destatis (2024)

Figure 7 Czech citizens per German Federal State

Czech citizens per German Federal State	
Baden-Württemberg	6755
Bavaria	26730
Berlin	3000
Brandenburg	810
Bremen	205
Hamburg	605
Hesse	4085
Mecklenburg-West Pomarania	470
Lower Saxony	2405
North Rhine-Westphalia	5465
Rhineland-Palatine	1750
Saarland	310
Saxony	9745
Saxony-Anhalt	900
Schleswig-Holstein	570
Thuringia	1850
Total	65655

Source: own projection after Destatis 2024

Altogether the data shows general information regarding the Czech population in Germany, its size or number according to European and German sources and some sociodemographic

indicators. Lastly, I found data on a more regional (state) level which show the naturalization of Czech citizens in Germany, which might also be interesting to look at.

For February 2023, further information regarding Czech citizens living in each German state were shown on DESTATIS (Destatis 2023) as can be seen in Figures 8 and 9. Figure 8 shows the numbers of Czech citizens per state in 5 different but similarly large groups, while Figure 9 shows the total numbers in 5 value ranges of around 4000 nationals. The first one shows a clearer picture of the states where lower total numbers of Czech citizens live, while the second one highlights the differences on the upper end of the scale.

The Figures project that by far the highest shares of Czechs live in Bavaria and North Rhine-Westfalia, closely followed by Baden-Wuerttemberg. The lowest shares are in former Eastern Germany and in Saarland, which can be attributed to its tiny size. The numbers for former Eastern Germany however are a bit more interesting, as both countries were part of the Soviet block and thus were connected by similar regimes. Much of the migration nowadays is connected to economic related migration, and former Western Germany has higher needs for foreign workers. This could lead to the low numbers of Czech nationals there now. The close territorial proximity of Saxony and Bavaria certainly leads to higher numbers too, while North Rhine-Westfalia has the largest overall population size of the German states and is therefore also quite attractive for foreigners. Not fitting with former data is that North Rhine-Westfalia has higher total numbers of Czech citizens than Bavaria (18 935 to 15 445).

Figure 8 Czech nationals per federal state, same frequencies

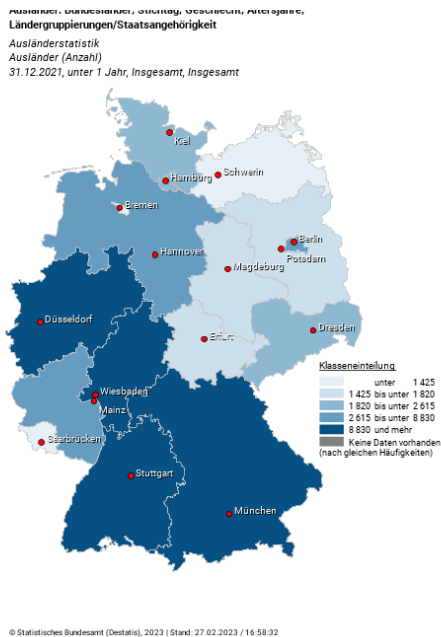
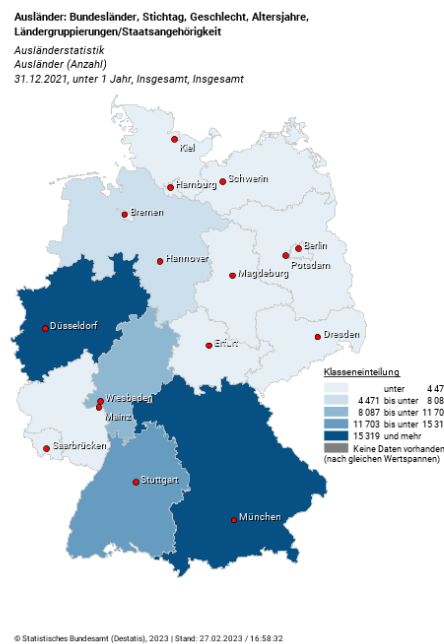


Figure 9 Czech nationals per federal state, same value ranges



Source: Destatis 2023

Source: Destatis 2023

Altogether, there were multiple migration waves of Czech nationals to Germany with a pretty significant increase in the last decade. While the reasons for emigration were versatile in the past, economic migration seems to be the most common today. We can also see certain clusters of Czechs in Germany, with especially Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia accommodating significant numbers.

While the number of Czech citizens in Germany is not astonishing, the amount is noticeably increasing in the last decade. While there are statistically based data on the quantities, there is hardly any research on the topic of integration. I therefore anticipate the need to fill the research gap on the integration of Czech nationals in Germany.

After this statistical insight into the quantities of Czech nationals in Germany, I will present current migration and integration theories and concepts to solidify the research in a theoretical framework in the next chapter.

4. Theoretical framework – assimilation and integration concepts and theories

In this thesis, I will inspect how the subsequent integration theories, namely, new assimilation theory, segmented assimilation theory or even the classic assimilation theory, influence the integration of Czech nationals in Germany society. Additionally, a closer look at transnationalism will highlight the current challenges and opportunities of migration and integration.

It is worth noting that there are many diverse integration theories ranging from assimilation theories to segregation theories and multiculturalism or transnationalism, with each covering other but important aspects of integration. It is also important to remember that in English speaking countries the term assimilation refers to what scholars from European schools of thought understand under the term integration (Brown 2006). The thesis will explain the generally used models through the assimilation model but will also encompass German and European integration models, in which the term integration will be used.

4.1 Theoretical background on assimilation concepts

4.1.1 Acculturation model

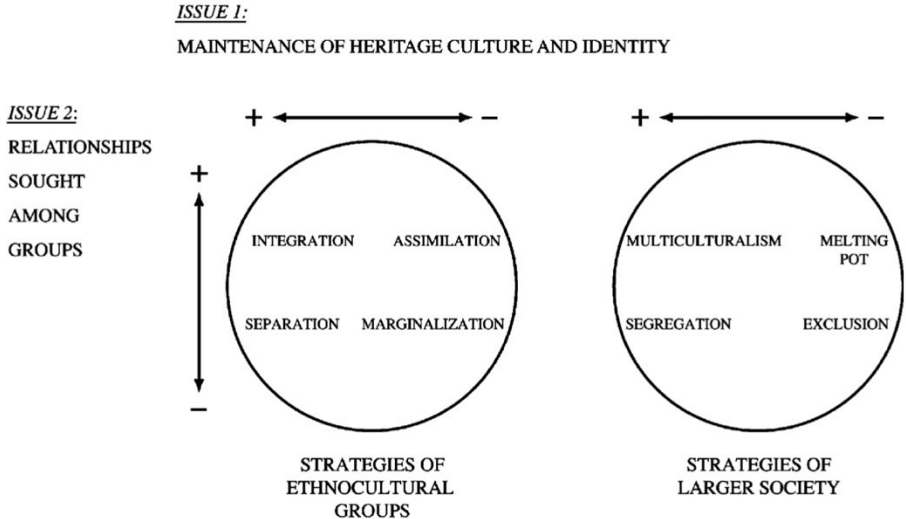
Berry (2005) created a model with which he explains the process of acculturation, which can be used as an overview for the following assimilation concepts. Firstly, acculturation is the process of intercultural contact between groups or individuals of different cultural heritage and the subsequent conflicts and negotiations to achieve convergence. While the concept was initially created to observe the impact of European domination on indigenous people, it is nowadays mainly used for research on the change of immigrant communities. The model is based on two criteria, on the maintenance of heritage culture and identity and on relationships sought among groups. These are then projected on each of the two observed groups, the ethnocultural minority as well as the larger general society (ibid.).

These processes of acculturation of immigrant communities, thus part of the ethnocultural group, can be divided into four different acculturation strategies, namely assimilation, integration, marginalization and separation (Berry 2005). The minority assimilates when their individuals seek interaction with the majority, while they don't maintain their own cultural heritage. Integration happens when members of the minority wish to both maintain their own

cultural heritage, as well as seek interaction with the dominant society. Members of the minority segregate when they wish to preserve their own cultural heritage while avoiding interaction. When neither happens, and the group loses their cultural heritage, while not interacting with the majority, marginalization happens.

From the majorities point of view, these strategies can be divided into multiculturalism, the melting pot, segregation and exclusion (Berry 2005). Multiculturalism happens when the majority is open to immigrants maintaining their individual ethnocultural heritage while still being integrated into society. A melting pot is created when the dominant group requests immigrants to assimilate into society, which will lead to them losing their own cultural heritage. Segregation happens when separation is forced by the dominant group. Lastly, exclusion happens when the dominant group forces the minority to marginalize (ibid.).

Figure 10 Model of Acculturation by Berry



Source: Berry 2006

I want to create a clear picture of the acculturation strategies used by the non-dominant group. It is necessary to note that the terms were based on the ideal circumstances in their earlier definition and that in reality many dimensions interact to create the final surroundings in which migrants and the host society interact.

4.1.2 Assimilation

This chapter focuses on assimilation theories, including the classic assimilation theory, which was shaped by sociologists like Park or Gordon, the new assimilation theory developed by Alba and Nee, and the theory of segmented assimilation by Portes, Zhou or Rumbaut. There are many more subcategories researching the impact and feasibility of assimilation theories such as integration into diversity (Crul 2024) which tries to rethink the new assimilation theory. It is important to note that these theories are mainly based on descriptive generalization.

The classic assimilation theory (CAT) is based on the race relations cycle by Robert E. Park. Assimilation “happens” through the four phases of contact, conflict, accommodation and in the end, assimilation.

As pure assimilation leads to discontent, a more pluralized and multicultural society has been the norm in reality (Esser 2010). This development has been converted into the theory of segmented assimilation (SAT), where regular assimilation into the host society at a similar socioeconomic level has been only one of the options. The others include downward assimilation, where immigrants lose social capital and selective acculturation, where immigrants assimilate economically, but keep certain traditions and parts of their original culture with certain individual meaning. Assimilation into the main population will then happen in future generations (ibid).

While assimilation is generally still seen as the main trend, new assimilation theory (NAT) implied that social, economic and political conditions determine in which social class under SAT the subject assimilates into (Esser 2010). Therefore, social conditions of migrants are dependent on their human, social and economic capital which they own, such as on political discourse and policies supporting migration and integration (ibid).

The conditions can have a large impact especially on integration policies, as was seen during the times when Germany publicly declared to not be an immigration country and that the guest workers would leave after their work was done (Domid). This meant no factual social or infrastructural concepts to support the guest workers. While they were formally equal to native workers, reality showed that unrecognized degrees and missing apprenticeships led to migrants working in lower social and worse paid jobs. These workers were mainly from Southern Europe and came officially through guest worker programs (ibid.). Migrants from Czechia were seen as political refugees and officially had different rights and possibilities (Huttenlocher 2020).

A new view to integration brings Crul (2024), who scrutinizes the term majority population and states that many western countries nowadays have large percentages of non-native population. This leads to changes in assimilation theories, as newcomers do not have to assimilate into culturally homogenous community and the original power positions have, at least partially, changed. He calls the process “integrating into diversity”, as multiculturalism is common, especially in larger cities (ibid). This often leads to further division of the local community, as political parties such as the far-right wing populist party AfD became increasingly popular as response to the large influx of migrants after 2016 (Decker 2022). This concept, however, is mainly useful in the context of large cities with heterogenous population.

4.1.3 Separation and marginalization

While there is a large body of empirical literature on segregation, it usually focuses on larger ethnically different migrant groups. The focus of studies regarding segregation is in particular on Turkish minorities, which were invited through the guest worker system in larger quantities and still experience higher segregation rates than other foreign resident groups (Buch et al 2021). In Europe and North America, the concept of whiteness imposes limits on the inclusion of migrants with different skin color (Walton 2021). Whiteness, however, refers to a “translucent modern individual” (Favell 2019) and therefore is used to exclude people who do not fit into the majority society.

While the EU New Urban Agenda prioritizes the inclusion of migrants into local context and societies (Panori et al 2019), segregation can mostly be seen through spatial and residential segregation. Corresponding hypotheses include the “racial threat hypothesis” (Blalock 1967) which states that growing minorities will be controlled by the majority through political social and economic controls. This includes outmigration of the majority group from diverse neighborhoods (white flight) or the avoidance of multi-ethnic neighborhoods (white avoidance). This then leads to larger social and spatial segregation.

The contact theory, in contrast, suggests that higher diversity leads to less segregation through better information and increased interaction between the different groups (Buch et al 2021). While this theory is not generally applicable and accepted, empirical evidence from studies in Germany has shown negative correlation between diversity and segregation for most immigrant groups except for the migrants stemming from the guest worker system, as they were meant to stay only temporary.

Finally, the social status of the immigrant has substantial impact on their segregation level. Migrants with higher education, higher social capital or higher language and economic skills have a lower probability of becoming segregated in the immigration country (Buch et al 2021).

The segregation concept is only thematized in this thesis to complete the general overview, as Czech immigrants usually integrate into existing structures instead of creating their own, as will be shown in the later part of the thesis.

In contrast to segregation, where the minority keeps its cultural heritage and therefore separates from the main group, marginalization happens, when the minority neither acquires the dominant ethnic culture, nor keeps their own ethnic culture (Turuea et al 2023). Marginalization tends to be the least favorable possible integration process for the migrant.

4.1.4 Integration concepts

Integration is viewed as the best option of all. It combines the inclusion of practices from the dominant society, while retaining those of the minority culture (Turuea et al 2023). A further analysis of integration concepts will follow in chapter 4.5.

4.2 Assimilation theories

After only a short description of the different acculturation models in the previous part, I want to take a closer look at the three main theories which I will be using in my thesis.

4.2.1 Classic assimilation model

The classic assimilation model created by Park in the early 20th century imagines how new people assimilate fully into the dominant uniform society. The hypothesis was based on interaction between the individual and the majority. Gradual assimilation through cooperative and economic relations later turns into common social and cultural interaction and is finalized through interbreeding between the different groups in following generations (Karimi 2023).

Gordon reworked the theory in the 1960s and stated ethnocultural plurality within the national culture as the anticipated outcome (Karimi 2023). This was achieved through a process of multiple steps who's in the end led to assimilation into the WASP culture in the context of the United States. The individual steps began with acculturation, or behavioral assimilation such as the adaptation of language and norms, followed by structural assimilation, intergroup marriages and later the individual identification with the majority. This leads to the acceptance of the minority into the majority, the decrease of discriminatory measures and finally attitudinal, behavioral, and civic integration. The processes were usually finalized over the timeframe of two or more generations. Gordon already incorporated the idea of acculturation into his theory, which was the case when none of his assimilation processes occurred at all or just occurred partially (ibid.). Generally, the theory is based on straight line assimilation processes, though, which expects assimilation with eventually happen over time (Brown 2006).

Both researchers were aware of the limited possibilities of their theories and their need for the ideal circumstances in order to function properly (Karimi 2023). Later additions such as the existence of "ethnolasses" were meant to adapt the theory to more multiethnic societies. Current scrutinization of the theory reveal however, that the CAT at least partially describes today's American society (ibid.).

4.2.2 Segmented assimilation model

The segmented assimilation theory (SAT) focuses on the different possible outcomes of assimilation (Karimi 2023). Migrants, but especially their descendants social class determines how effectively the immigrants assimilated. The theory distinguishes between assimilation into three different social classes, the upper class, the white middle class or the poverty plagued underclass. The aim of the theory is to understand the settings for these differentiations. While first generation immigrants often take over 3D jobs, their kids generally try to achieve better jobs. While there is a clear differentiation between 2nd generation immigrants and natives, SAT focuses on the differences in between the groups of 2nd generation immigrants. These differences can be traced back to skin color, location and the absence of mobility ladders, and furthermore to family or human capital, family structure and modes of incorporation, which consists of government policies, ethnic capital and racial prejudice in the labor market (ibid.).

The SAT also differentiates between full assimilation with the majority, which leads to upward mobility, selective acculturation, which includes structural assimilation while keeping at least some ethnic/cultural heritage, which then leads to assimilation into the middle class, and acculturation, which will lead to assimilation into the lower classes, as they renounce their ethnic heritage (Karimi 2023).

4.2.3 New assimilation model

Neo assimilation challenges the idea of a majority culture in which new immigrants have to assimilate, as today's mainstream culture is racially diverse and the majority on which the CAT has been built is not as homogenous anymore (Karimi 2023). The mainstream is defined as a core set of social institutions which mirrors their main cultural beliefs in which the majority beliefs. The mainstream is, however, also the mindset into which newcomers should assimilate. "The mainstream is [therefore] neo-assimilation's outcome or observed pattern [of] unprecedented ethnic, racial and religious diversity" (Karimi 2023, p. 16-17).

The new assimilation theory builds on neo-institutionalism, which states that individual actions and policies interact and create the majorities way of life. This means that policies as well as the majorities actions shape and change the mainstream continuously. And as the mainstream does not have any fixed characteristics, adaptation or assimilation into the mainstream changes continuously.

The next two chapters will define further and more applicated terms for migration and also integration measures. Especially transnationalism is an important term in current integration research.

4.3 Diaspora

This chapter will define and describe the official term of diaspora. This includes how the term is understood in today's research, how the definition has changed over time and which kinds of diasporas there are.

The historical diaspora was mainly used to describe the Jewish diaspora which has been dispersed from their country of origin stemming back to biblical times. After they became the first dispersed people, they defined themselves as the first diaspora, living away from their home but still feeling attached to the idea of the country (Bruneau 2010).

With time, many other people have become diasporic, and the definition has changed to more of a general term for people living outside their ancestral and original homeland (Bruneau 2010). But the term now also has some criteria according to which a diaspora is defined. Simply defined, a diaspora can be nowadays defined as at least two far away groups with a common identity. This can be formed by either family, community, sociopolitical or economic ties or by a shared religion. A shared memory, usually a catastrophe or trauma lived through by common ancestors, can also lead to a common identity (ibid.).

First, I want to show a specific definition of diaspora by Bruneau (2010), in which he defines certain principles which are important for the creation of diaspora. Bruneau cites the works of Cohen 1997 and Scheffer 2003 for those criteria. The first is the dispersion of the people under pressure to territories beyond their immediate areal boundaries. Secondly, the dispersion happens along already established migratory routes. Third, the group integrates into the new countries society without assimilating, while retaining a strong identity awareness relating to their origin. Additionally, they create a networked space between the individual dispersed diaspora groups and with the home country itself. Also important is the so called "longue durée", which is created through identity dispersion happening over generations as identity is reproduced and given from generation to generation. Lastly, a diaspora is created by forming an autonomous social formation, which differs from both homeland and the host community in terms of social, political and cultural elements (ibid.).

Each diaspora then creates their own symbolic capital which is reproduced by its members to overcome the obstacle of territorial or timely distance (Bruneau 2010). The practice of iconography includes many different possibilities of or for reproduction. Iconography can be realized through periodic gatherings of political, social or cultural nature, through the consolidation and preservation of social networks or religion, through memory or generally through social organization of the specific group. But it can also include material forms such as sanctuaries, which include churches, synagogues, mosques or of more specific, the Greek monasteries in the Black Sea region. But the creation of culture specific restaurants, grocery

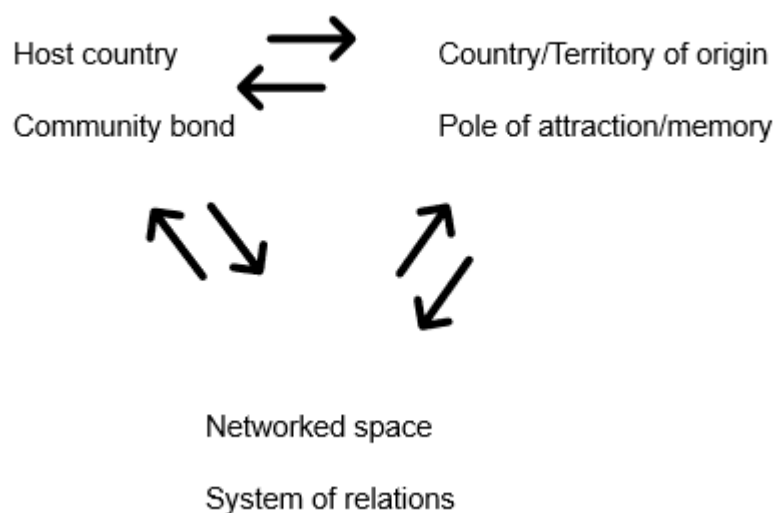
stores or media groups is also part of iconography. Iconography includes the retention of a distinct identity and no assimilation of a certain group of family into the host society. Their specific values and norms are reproduced by transmission to their descendants at young ages (ibid.).

Then, to look at the bigger picture, Grossman (2019) constructed a database from the current most cited papers regarding diaspora and thus created a general understanding of diaspora in the current scientific community. He was able to single out six core attributes which define the term, but he acknowledges that while they all have their own distinct characteristics, they are closely intertwined with each other (ibid.).

Grossman (2019) first attribute for diaspora is the concept of transnationalism, which will be discussed in the following chapter. The embeddedness of the diaspora communities in multiple locations, which is the definition of transnationalism, is an important aspect of diaspora construction, but is also just one of its conditions. Additionally, a sense of community and the identification of individuals with the community is necessary. Furthermore, dispersal or immigration to a new country is essential for the creation of a diaspora, which also directly implies the next attribute, namely that they must live outside the territory they collectively regard as their homeland. Maintaining material and symbolic ties to the homeland, called homeland orientation, are crucial for the diaspora and its differentiation from other ethnic communities. These ties or contacts which create homeland orientation will play an important role in the following empirical part of the thesis, as attributes like visiting friends in the homeland, economic or cultural exchanges or political mobilization are all part of homeland orientation. The last attribute of diaspora is group identity, how they distinguish and define themselves from the majority and how they are defined by others. It is important to emphasize that identities might shift or become hybrid with time and through impulses from the outside.

Other scholars, such as Prevlakis (1996) emphasize the importance of the creation of spaces which the diaspora recognizes as their own, where social bonds and close proximities can span territorial or temporal distances. Bruneau (2010) defines them as sociospatial networks which connect places of memory and places of presence. These diasporic areas connect the host country with the country of origin through networked space by creating community bonds around memories and systems of relations.

Figure 11 Model of diaspora space after Bruneau



Source: Bruneau 2010

Even though the term diaspora has been now clearly defined, there are still different subcategories in which the single groups are divided into. Bruneau (2010) divides them into four categories. The first is the entrepreneurial diaspora, which uses commercial and entrepreneurial activities as main defining structural elements. Chinese, Lebanese, Indian and many more belong to this group. The second group consists of religious diasporas, where their religion is how they distinguish themselves from the host society. This group includes most older diasporas such as the Jews or the Armenians or the Greek. The political diaspora is defined as a group of people driven from their homeland aspired to create a nation state, such as the Palestinian or Kurdish diaspora. Lastly, the cultural or racial diaspora consists of a certain group which is separated from the main culture by social construct or a certain normative feature. This includes the Afro-American diaspora, which was segregated because of their skin color and is now socially segregated as well (ibid.).

Brubaker (2005) defines the groups a bit differently as he differs mainly between mobilized or trading diasporas and victimized or catastrophic diasporas. While the first group contains most traditional diasporas such as the Jewish, Greek, Armenians and the entrepreneurial diasporas such as the Chinese and Lebanese, the second group resembles groups like the Palestinians or maybe the Kurds. He then also differentiates long distance nationals, which include people or groups which show continued involvement in homeland politics, even reaching as far as supporting ultranationalist organizations. This includes the victimized diasporas, but also p.e. the Irish (ibid.).

In addition to the scholarly definitions of diaspora, international organizations such as IOM (International Organization for Migration) or MPI (Migration Policy Institute) have their own, maybe less complex, definitions for the term diaspora. Their definition includes “[e]migrants

and their descendants, who live outside the country of their birth or ancestry, either on a temporary or permanent basis, yet still maintain effective and material ties to their countries of origin” (Janská, Uherek, Janurová 2024, p. 109). This already illustrated the complex connection between diaspora and transnationalism, which will be explained in the following chapter.

Furthermore, I would like to know if the Turkish diaspora in Germany can fit into this pattern, as a majority of them votes regularly for Erdogan as their President while enjoying German rights (Siggelkow 2023). Brubaker (2005) explores the term labor diaspora in this case, as it includes entrepreneurial aspects but additionally includes all labor workers who maintain social or emotional ties to their homeland. He argues that anglophone and francophone colonialists do fit into those schemes, while not being forced to disperse originally.

In the case of Czechia, I use the terminology defined by Janská et al. (2024a). They recommend using the term compatriots or diaspora for all people of Czech descent. For more details, please refer to the terminology scheme in Janurová, Janská (2024, pg 33).

4.4 Transnationalism

While transnationalism is not a concept or theory explaining assimilation, such as the previous theories, it has become increasingly relevant for integration research in the last few decades, as it is understood as a consequence of globalization (Tedeschi et al. 2022).

The term has been initially used by Schiller and her colleagues (Schiller et al. 1992) to better describe the new tendencies of migrants in terms of their social embeddedness in the host and their origin society. While migration was traditionally permanent, the shift of technology, politics and transportation during the globalization processes allowed new forms of migration. Phenomena like temporary and circular migration challenge old migration theories and establish the concept of transnationalism (Tan et al. 2018).

In terms of its application on migration, transmigrants build and maintain multiple relations, including economic, social, familial religious, political or organizational (Schiller et al. 1992). Transnationalism then refers to the increasing establishment of social transnational spaces of migrants, which spans cross geographic, cultural and political borders (Tan et al. 2018 p. 2) which results in ‘transnationalism from below’ (Tedeschi et al. 2022). These can then influence the migrant's integration processes, as strong transnational ties can lead to lower ambitions to stay and therefore decrease individual integration efforts (Carling 2014).

Transnationalism is also more of an umbrella term encompassing a multitude of similar definitions, theories and concepts regarding the detachment of migrants from only one group of people (Tedeschi et al. 2022).

Another process of transnationalism is the process in which immigrants create social fields connecting their country of origin with their country of settlement (Schiller et al. 1992). Their development and maintenance of relations, ranging from familiar ties to economic, social, religious and even organizational ties, create identity bonding with more than one society simultaneously (ibid.). This leads to the creation of dynamic cross border relationships, further forging the immigrant's plural identity (Schiller 2010).

Most scholars definitions represent transnationalism as an act from individuals and the civil society and support the notion of transnationalism from below. It therefore consists of people-led activities which use globalization processes in order to challenge nationalist ideas and practices (Al-Ali et al. 2000; Smith, Guarnizo 1998)

It is necessary to actively maintain these transnational ties though, with their intensity being used to differentiate between broad and narrow transnationalism. The activities include involvement in the transnational space, the degree of movement between the geographical spaces and the degree of institutionalization of transnational practices (Itzigson et al. 1999, p. 323). The narrow concept includes higher levels of transnational activities, while the broader concept refers to only sporadic activity in the transnational field. Individuals can, however, also be active and part of the narrow concept in only one or two of the three dimensions and in the broader concept in the other dimension(s) (ibid.).

Vertovec (Vertovec 2003) created another theoretical framework in order to define transnationalism. The individual's loyalty, sense of belonging and attachment can be in multiple locations. Vertovec claims that they are heavily dependent on social networks, social ties and the concept of structural embeddedness. He later enhanced and restructured the theory and built it on six different theoretical premises (Vertovec 2009). These include social morphology, which represents the social networks, type of consciousness, which represents their sense of belonging, modes of cultural reproduction, the avenue of capital, political engagement and the reconstruction of place or locality. These premises strongly interact with and enhance already existing transnational ties and can even create societal changes in the receiving country (ibid.).

Transnationalism also doesn't have to make integration processes impossible (Janska et al. 2021). Transnationalism can be an adaptation process, in which migrants create hybrid identities and participate in cosmopolitan or transnational activities while being simultaneously integrated into the host country (Tedeschi et al. 2022, p. 607). The rejection-based transnationalism, however, hinders integration, as migrants form ties with their homeland

rather than the host society, due to the host nations negative attitude towards the migrants (Beauchemin and Safi 2020) The attitude is often projected through discrimination or racism, which can, in the worst case, even lead to segregation from the majority (ibid.).

Hathat and Wehrhahn (2021) connect transnational migration to the social network theory and claim that the term and concept of translocality would better fit the idea behind transnationalism. The claim is based on the concept of locality and its importance for the geographical understanding of transnationalism. The idea of dis-embeddedness or the absence of incorporation into the local society must also encompass the physical space needed for social and daily activities. This leads to the creation of hybrid identities through co-presence at two or more localities. Translocation therefore better describes the local incorporation of the sociological concept of transnationalism (ibid.).

The above-mentioned definitions of transnationalism all point towards individuals or groups living in a complementary and complex structure between their country of origin and their country of stay. These structures are also included in today's comprehension of a modern diaspora (Janská et al. 2024c), as the diaspora members social connections to home must not be only imaginary, especially in today's interconnected world. This understanding of diaspora means that transnational characteristics and processes do indeed form a kind of diaspora in the host country (ibid.).

While it is impossible to list all different characteristics and features of transnationalism, I pointed out some of the most important researchers and theories, including their essential variables, activities and ideas into this definition of transnationalism. In the case of Czech migrants in Germany however, many transnational attributes can be found. Especially the existence of cultural attachment, language usage and social networks will be later shown in the empirical part.

4.5 Integration dimensions

After this recapitulation of different theories and concepts regarding migration and integration, I will now finally take a deeper dive into the magnitude of dimensions which together form the process of integration. Integration cannot be easily quantified as it is subjective and individual. There are certain indicators which can aid the measurement of integration though. These are, however, defined differently by different scholars who are researching integration. The following paragraphs will create an overview of how scholars have interpreted integration and its dimensions.

Eisenstadt differentiated the integration process into four dimensions regarding its structural scope. At first, migrants integrate within the economic sphere to fulfill their basic needs, which is called the instrumental phase. Integration within the solidarity sphere happens when migrants accept the majorities central values and norms and create a feeling of belonging with the majority. Cultural integration begins with the use of expressive patterns and symbols of life and is therefore continuative to the solidarity sphere. Lastly, integration within the adaptive sphere refers to the process, in which members of the migrant community actively partake and influence institutions of the host society (Eisenstadt et al. 2010).

Lockwood created a concept for integration in his sociological theory of social systems, in which he differentiated between system integration and social integration in the year 1964 (Lockwood 1964, cit. in Heckmann 2005). The term system integration refers to integration into the legal, economic and institutional aspects in this concept. It therefore focuses on the phases of integration which are subject to the receiving state and society. In contrast, social integration refers to the individual side of integration, regarding social relationships and the integration into the general social system of the receiving society.

In earlier works, Esser defined integration as a combination of three dimensions (Eisenstadt et al. 2010). Firstly, personal integration, refers to the individual's perception or feeling of integration and the diffusion of personal differences felt between the host and the origin society. Secondly, social integration, refers to the integration of the individual into social norms and the cultural system of the host society. Lastly, systematic integration defines the functional integration of the individual into the host society.

Esser (Esser 2000, cit. in Heckmann 2005, p. 9) later divides integration into four basic forms of integration in his concept of integration. He defines the individual dimensions as cultururation, placement, interaction and identification. Cultururation encompasses the adaptation to social and cultural norms and competences for successful interaction with the host society. Placement refers to the individuals incorporation into the host society regarding their economic, educational and political capital and their general occupation of relevant social, cultural or economic positions. The term interaction covers the individuals social actions, such as the establishment of social networks, relations and friendships. Generally speaking, it refers to primary social contacts with the host society. The final dimension is comprised by self-identification of the migrant with the new system and the creation of emotional attachment with the host society.

Heckmann (Heckmann, Schnapper 2003, cit. in Heckmann 2005) also differentiates between structural and cultural integration, but he also uses interactive integration and identificational integration to complete his view on integration dimensions. Integrative integration is being used instead of social integration, as Heckmann began to use social integration as synonym for the

whole process. Identificational integration is based on the migrant's self-identification. Heckmann (Heckmann 2005) also incorporates sociological theories into his concept as social inequality and social differentiation deeply impact his concept of social integration.

Sobolewska and her colleagues (Sobolewska et al. 2016) interpret integration from the majorities point of view. They claim that for the majority, cultural integration is seen as the most important dimension, especially in terms of assimilation into the host society. Attributes of cultural integration include speaking the host countries language with their children at home, attitudes towards women in employment and religiosity. The second most important dimension of integration according to the public is social integration, including intermarriage and having friends among natives. This is followed by civic integration, which contains attributes such as voting and citizenship. The least importance is given to the economic aspect of integration, including paying taxes, occupation or receiving social benefits.

Richard Alba and Nancy Foner create a more nuanced version of integration dimensions in their book "Strangers no more" (Alba, Foner 2015). They examined the role of economic integration, the role of residential context for integration, the integration of different races into the host society, how religion can impact social integration, the impact of political integration, integration of the second generation and finally they single out the feeling of belonging, especially for second generation immigrants (ibid.).

For their analysis of economic integration, Alba and Foner (2015) focused on the viability of migration in order to gain economic benefits through economic integration in western societies. Their findings include growing skepticism of the premise of economic ascent as low wage jobs and precarious working conditions affect especially migrants with low levels of human capital. These disadvantages are likely to even affect further generations, which have already grown up in the host society, which underscores the segmented assimilation theory.

Residential segregation or its counterpart, spatial assimilation, play a role in integration through the disadvantages created by separation of the migrant communities and the creation of enclaves from the majority population, as it leads to less amenities and worse education opportunities (Alba, Foner 2015). While the ethnic enclaves can be beneficial for its residents, such as in the case of Asian ethnoburbs in the US, high racial concentration and therefore higher indexes of isolation usually lead to disadvantaged neighborhoods (ibid.).

German social state creates better opportunities, and residential segregation is not as extreme as in liberal economies such as the US or the UK (Alba, Foner 2015). Nevertheless, neighborhoods housing a larger part of immigrant populations are still typically inferior to neighborhoods housing mainly the majority population in terms of housing quality, overcrowding, quality of education and employment (ibid.)

Alba and Foner also point out the importance of race for integration purposes, and while it mainly applies to people of African American descent in the United States, recent mainly Muslim migration waves to Europe have created a similar source of concern and stigma (Alba, Foner 2015). Immigrant religion, or especially Islam has been one of the central issues about immigrant integration in Western Europe (Alba, Foner 2015, p. 118). The main fears of the public include that Islam will prevent successful integration into the host society as it opposes Western democratic culture, values, institutions and practices (ibid.). The fear of growing importance of Islam and generally from the Muslim population and its impact on liberal values such as free speech and equal rights for women and homosexuals, create views opposing the Islam in Western Europe (Alba, Foner 2015). Couple that with rising secularization, especially the division of state affairs and religious affairs and the ensuing suspicion toward claims based on religion, and Europe's cultural values being rooted in Christianity, all make it difficult for Islam to be accepted (ibid.).

Political integration is always one of the core dimensions of integration. Alba and Foner did, however, incorporate new attributes to measure political integration by focusing on the ability of immigrant-origin politicians to be voted into office, instead of just focusing on citizenship and therefore the ability to vote in general (Alba, Foner 2015, p. 143).

Another dimension of integration is the educational sector, especially the education of the second generation (Alba, Foner 2015). How well second-generation immigrants are integrated in the education system can predict their later economic and social integration. Their future social status largely depends on the position they will occupy in society. While school systems tend to reproduce inequalities and students from lower social migrant classes often underachieve in regard to average host nation education levels, they still tend to achieve a higher level of education than their parents. Alba and Foner point out that this doesn't aid the host countries enough, as depleting native human resources through receding native descendants cannot be replaced without well integrated and educated descendants of immigrants. Therefore, handicaps and restrictions, such as limitations in guidance and assistance through their parents, the language barrier through the usage of their native tongue, the distance created between second generation migrants, fellow students and their teachers, need to be addressed to create better integration opportunities (ibid.).

The last dimension Alba and Foner single out is the second generation's national identity (Alba, Foner 2015). Their main looked at attribute are social relations between the second generation and the native population, especially on mixed partnerships, as they strongly indicate how accepted individuals with migrant backgrounds are in the mainstream society.

I personally favor the systematic differentiation of integration dimensions proposed by Heath (2021) who distinguishes between structural, cultural, social, political and civic integration

dimensions. These dimensions will be used in both the literature review as well as in the quantitative empirical research.

“*Structural integration* is typically thought of as achieving parity with the major group in terms of economic resources and occupational positions” according to Heath (2021, p. 7). Structural integration therefore focuses on the socioeconomic, monetary and material parity of the migrant vs. the main population. This can be measured by indicators such as net household income, unemployment or their position in the labor market.

Cultural integration focuses on language skills and assimilation in terms of common attitudes and values. These can be measured by the acceptance of shared values like i.e. gender equality (Heath 2021).

Political integration poses a more nuanced challenge to integration, as political engagement in the country of origin is considered important to keep one’s connection to identity and social background (Yanaşmayan 2023). Without dual citizenship, voting in the receiving country often means giving up this strong symbolic link to home. Voting in both countries, on one hand increases transnational ties (Boccagni 2011; Boccagni et al. 2015; Collyer 2014; Erdal and Oeppen 2013; Vertovec 2004; Waldinger 2015, cit. in Chaudhary 2018), while, on the other hand, political integration can represent the final step of the integration process into the host society (Gordon 1964; Heath et al. 2013; Jones-Correa 1998; Ramakrishnan 2005, cit. in Chaudhary 2018).

Civic integration is strongly connected to political integration, as gaining citizenship, which is one of the two pillars of civic integration, leads to the possibility of political integration. The other pillar of civic integration is based on the individual's national identification with the host society (Heath 2021).

Social integration is based on equal social contacts and social relationships. While this may be harder to quantify, indicators such as interethnic marriages, interethnic friendships and the general integration in local social groups but also their area of residence show their social integration into the majority group (Heath 2021).

It is necessary to add that many of those indicators impact multiple categories and also other indicators.

4.5 Conclusion of the theoretical part

The three assimilation theories all build on assimilation of newcomers over time and expect that migrants of second or further generations are assimilated more than the previous generation. The CAT explains the different phases of assimilation and how migrants become part of the majority population through the concept of straight-line assimilation. Further

theories, such as SAT build onto the classic model, but focus on how the social status or class impacts the assimilation path of further generations. The theory thus states that immigrants have different paths to assimilation according to their social class and therefore do not all follow the same assimilation path, as is implied by straight line assimilation in the CAT. While the NAT also builds on the basis of CAT, it challenges the simplistic view on the homogenic majority, as the mainstream, which is constructed through shared values, beliefs and norms, is changing and increasingly diversifying through the incorporation of the newcomers into the majority population.

Altogether, while these theories are all based on the belief that further generations gradually assimilate into the majority population, they differ in the aspects of their view on the mainstream and a homogenic assimilation process.

These differing beliefs can also be found in diaspora and transnationalism concepts, as they showcase how migrants are still influenced by, or actively influence, their former culture and homeland and how they resist complete assimilation into the majority population. Therefore, diaspora and transnationalism concepts focus on how and in what measure migrants and their descendants are still influenced by their country of origin, contrary to the assimilation theories.

While both concepts include many aspects of the respective other, diaspora studies focus on the connectivity of a group to its believed or imagined home, to its culture and to the rest of the diasporic community. Transnationalism, on the other hand, which is seen as component for the construction of a diaspora, has recently gained importance and interest through globalization. Its focus is directed at the connection which the individuals create between the two entities and in which they live and create social ties.

There exist many different concepts regarding the divisions for integration dimensions, since its first attempts to fragmentate the topic to be able to take a closer look at its subdivisions. I ultimately used the classification by Heath (2021) consisting of five different integration dimensions. Most researchers divided integration into a few general dimensions. They usually included an economic, systematic or structural aspect, which focuses on the migrant's incorporation into the workforce and general institutions. Furthermore, a cultural aspect, regarding the migrants acceptance of the societies norms and the adaptation to the majority language or religion has been generally singled out. Social integration, regarding intermarriages and social contacts between the majority and the minority were also often focused on. Lastly, civic and political integration including citizenship or consciousness were scarcely separated. Others, such as Alba and Foner (2015) subdivided integration into even more aspects. Heath (2021) used the three main dimensions (structural, social, cultural), but differentiated between political and civic integration to create a more nuanced division. Civic integration is more focused on the individual, while political integration focuses on the bigger

picture. In the next chapters, these dimensions will be used to analyze Turkish, Polish and Czech integration into the German society, according to literature research for the first two groups and through empirical research for the Czech population.

5. Integration in Germany

This chapter will be preceded by a short discourse into the overall German integration history, as it will create a better impression of the challenges immigrants face in the specific German context and how policies and integration concepts have changed in recent history.

Shortly after World War II, Germany experienced an economic boom, which led to shortcomings in the labor force. German politics thereupon invited workers, mostly from peripheral European countries via the guestworker system (Karcher 2010). German politics, however, only began to implement policies regarding the integration of migrants after the official end of the guestworker recruitment in 1973. This was due to integration becoming an important topic for the public, as the German state was not prepared for the settling of the majority of the guestworkers once the program ended. At first, calls for assisted returns and restrictive integration just into the economic sector arose. Due to further rising immigration numbers even more restrictive policies led to the change of asylum laws and the decrease in family unifications in 1993. After this led to sinking immigration numbers, the focus shifted towards integration policies and in the year 2000, a new citizenship law was implemented, easing requirements for citizenship acquisition. Due to further need for specialists and workers, the German Government also implemented the green card system in the year 2000 (Eisenstadt, Gordon, Esser 2010).

To further regulate and direct migration flows, a new immigration law was passed in 2005, which restructured current institutions and created the federal institution for migration and refugees (BAMF- Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge) (Eisenstadt et al. 2010, bamf 2024). The institution is in charge of language and integration courses which are obligatory for all migrants. Later German summits on integration divided the burdens of integration between the federal government, the German states, communes, the economy and migrant associations and thus created participatory integration politics (Eisenstadt et al. 2010), which led to the creation of a national integration plan (DOMID 2024). In 2006 first non-discriminatory policies and the right of residence for people not dependent on the German welfare system were proclaimed. Since 2008, a citizenship test had to be passed and higher language proficiency was expected (ibid.). While the EU expanded eastward and thus created a larger labor market, restrictive policies limited the German labor market to workers from the new member states until 2011. This initially led to only marginal increases of foreign workers from the new EU member states (Brücker, Dameland 2007). These numbers, however, didn't even spike after 2011, in contrast to what some politicians and certain parts of the public feared (bpb 2021). This does not mean that some, especially welfare, policies were altered to restrict access for the newcomers from the new member states. Especially Polish and Rumanian, but

also Croats, Bulgarians, Hungarians and Czechs compatriots migrated to Germany since 2011 (ibid.) As EU citizens, they do not need to fulfill the required integration and language courses for migrants but can request admission to a language/integration course if their language proficiency is not adequate (Bamf 2022). It is necessary to note that these courses are only partially funded, and the participants have to pay around one third of the total fee (ibid.).

Due to Syrian civil war, the emergence of ISIS, rising numbers of asylum seekers fled to Germany (Bamf 2024). In 2016, an especially large migration inflow overextends the capacities of BAMF, which results in a restructure of the asylum process in order to be able to react faster. Since 2022, Germany experiences a large influx of Ukrainian refugees fleeing from Russian terror (ibid.). The German government actively promotes the necessity of integration of these refugees, especially in terms of economic integration, integration of the second generation through education and the assertion of integration courses (Die Bundesregierung 2024). I just want to shortly point at the differences of integration possibilities between the two waves, in which Ukrainian refugees have a much more favorable path to integration (Thölmann et al. 2023).

After this general overview about how the German government handles integration processes, I now want to follow up with the two aforementioned case studies.

5.1 Case studies – integration of Turks and Poles in Germany

This chapter will contextualize the integration of Czech compatriots by assessing Turkish and Polish integration difficulties and realities. Those particular immigrant groups were chosen, as they represent the largest group of immigrants in Germany in the case of the Turks, with more than 1.5 million Turkish citizens living in Germany as can be seen in figure 5, or a group which has a similar historical and cultural background in case of the Polish immigrants.

It is important to note that Germany implements complicated and demanding naturalization procedures and requirements, as Germany is an ethnic nation state which means that Germans build their nationality on common ancestry and shared cultural heritage (Küçükcan 2002). German nationality is therefore based on *jus sanguinis*, the principle of nationality based on blood lines. This principle can be traced back to times before German unification during the wars against Napoleonic France (Dusche 2010).

5.1.1 Turkish integration

The state of Turkish integration into German society is far from both finalized and ideal. Historically Turkish immigration to Germany began during the German Guestworker program which began in the early 1950's, when the German economy began to outgrow its human

resources (Karcher 2010). The German government then decided to import cheap labor force from Eastern European and Mediterranean countries such as Italy, Greece and in 1961 also from Turkey with the help of so called “Anwerbeabkommen” or recruitment agreements (Wolf 2021). Workers stayed for a certain time, ranging from a few months up to 3 years and should then officially return to their home country (Karcher 2010).

After 1973, due to economic hardship and the following discontinuation of the Guestworker program, Turkish workers faced two choices. Either to remigrate to their home country to unify their family or to stay in Germany and unify their family there. Returning to Turkey would have negated the opportunity to further work in Germany in the future (Karcher 2010, Küçükcan 2002). This led to a large number of Turkish guestworkers becoming immigrants in Germany, and to a large influx of family members under the family reunification policy.

While this may seem like the better economical choice, Germany was neither prepared to stem such an influx of migrants, nor willing to actively integrate the former guestworkers. This, coupled with significant cultural, religious and phonetical differences between the main population and the Turkish minority led to their still persistent exclusion (Küçükcan 2002).

The German state denied the fact that they became an “Einwanderungsland” up until the new immigration act in 2005 (DoMid n.a.), which meant that integration became officially a state duty. Before the year 2005 though, members of the Turkish community experienced political exclusion and assimilation was seen as the appropriate integration process (Ehrkamp 2006).

Since 2005, German integration institutions, namely the “Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge” short BAMF, and the new immigration law have worked proactively to include and integrate migrants in Germany. Their main tools are integration courses regarding German language and an orientation course including German laws, history and culture (Hanewinkel 2021). Citizens from non-EU countries, especially the ones without language proficiency, can be forced to participate. Germany’s federal system allows for individual states and even communities to work out their own integration policies, and states like Bavaria, North Rhine Westfalia, and the capital Berlin have already implemented their own (ibid.). These are not coincidentally the states with some of the largest shares of migrants in Germany.

The largest development included in the immigration law in 2005 was the commitment to reduce barriers and to increase equality and opportunities in society, economy and politics. The law also states, however, that migrants need to learn the German language and accept German core values, especially the democratic political order (Hanewinkel 2021). The government therefore declared the integration process to be less one-sided and discriminatory against minorities. In reality, and reflected in public discourse, the pressure to integrate has mostly stayed with the migrant population (ibid.).

Socioeconomic integration is one of the main measurements for integration. In the case of the Turkish community, we can see not yet complete socioeconomic integration (Lodigiani 2018). Especially considering that only 12% of Turks feel included in German society (Sauer 2005).

Therefore, it is not surprising that average language skills, achievements in education and labor market accessibility are below the national German averages (Lodigiani 2018). Resulting are lower average salaries, lower hiring rates, lower occupational autonomy and higher unemployment rates. Turkish workers are more probable to work in blue collar jobs than Germans and entrepreneurship usually means owning a kebab shop. Working in kebab shops often lead to further isolation in the job market and from the main population as deeper interaction with the main population is held to a minimum. Students from the Turkish minority also have a much higher probability to be sent to lower-level education institutions as Germans. This can be connected to their parents' language skills and their attention to their children's educational success. It is generally known that language skills lead to better education and furthermore to better economic possibilities in the future which will later lead to better integration (ibid.).

This feeling of segregation and marginalization leads to further aversion from the German society and the reemergence of importance for Turkish culture and history. While, according to a study published in 2005 (Sauer 2005), nearly 75% of questioned Turks do not want to segregate, nearly half does feel the need to differentiate themselves from being German. Generally seen, the Turkish community faces the dilemma of wanting to integrate while keeping their Turkish heritage, culture and religion (ibid.)

While Germany has no official state religion and the German civil code guarantees religious freedom (BMI n.a.), the country's Christian affiliation is deeply anchored in its core beliefs, culture and tradition. These beliefs are in contrast to most of the immigrants' strong Muslim affiliation. Most of the immigrant workers originally came from rural regions in Turkey and hold onto their religion to keep their identity, defend against the pressure of the dominant culture and to stay connected to their homeland (Küçükcan 2002). Through increasing institutionalism of Islam in Germany, the number of Muslim places of worship increases steadily. This transnational identity construction leads to severe visibility and differentiation of the Turkish minority from the main population. This has led to political and civil unrest and even radicalization and racism in the past (Küçükcan 2002, Ehrkamp 2006). German Christian Democrats even stated that: "[the] basis for living together in Germany is not multicultural arbitrariness, but the value system of Christian occidental culture" and the occidental "Deutsche Leitkultur (German guiding culture) to which immigrants ought to adapt (Merz, 2000)" (both from Ehrkamp 2006, page 1679). While they publicly state that integration is not

assimilation, conservative Politicians, but also their voters expect the Turks to adapt to Christian norms as a part of the integration process (Ehrkamp 2006).

Religious differences with the main population can but do not have to influence economic integration. But in the case of Muslim integration in Western societies, Kogan (Kogan 2020) illustrates that their religiosity hinders the immigrant's integration into the workforce, especially in Germany. Other sources, like Ohlendorf (Ohlendorf 2015), show, however, that activity in religious communities supports the creation of social contacts and therefore integration into the local religious community, which, especially in terms of the younger Turkish community, are often a step-stone for further integration.

Altogether, religious identity does not aid Turkish integration into German main population and creates conflicts which lead to separation and segregation instead of integration.

One can debate if double citizenship or transnationalism lead to better or worse integration into the host country. Nevertheless, in the case of Turkish diaspora, political engagement in the homeland is considered important to keep one's Turkish identity and background (Yanaşmayan 2023). While around 80% of Turks in Germany feel a strong connection to Germany, 60% of Turks also feel strongly connected to Turkey. The voter turnout in last years (2023) presidential elections in Turkey was at around 65% of German Turks, which shows a large political interest (Yanaşmayan 2023). Interestingly nearly two thirds of them voted for Erdogan (Welt 2023), which does not indicate successful integration into the German democratic political system. This phenomenon can also be attributed to the Turkish government influencing the diaspora through soft power methods, such as by supporting multiple institutions and religious centers in Germany which preach Muslim morals and traditions in order to create Turkish Muslim nationalism, which Erdogan is promoting not only in Turkey (Göğüş 2018). Turkey has therefore been called out for trying to exert political pressure onto compatriots which now live in western civilizations thus under a different ideology. This leads to complications regarding assimilation and integration according to multiple western countries and politicians and it worsens negative opinions on the topic of migration as whole and especially of the Turkish diaspora (Söylemez 2021).

5.1.2 Polish integration

While the integration of the Turkish minority is still ongoing, the Polish, another major immigrant group, as can be seen in figure 5, integrated themselves quite successfully into German society (Debska 2014; Jaeger 2015; Gnauck 2011). This is especially impressive, as there is a constant influx of migration from Poland (Debska 2014).

This can be owed to multiple reasons. First, only a relatively small amount of them were officially seen as foreigners, as most came to Germany as "Spätaussiedler", or ethnic Germans

who wished to return to their “Heimat”, which means that they wanted to live with their own kin (Otto 2019). Migration to Germany changed over time and in the 1970s and 80s, most “Spätaussiedler” had German ancestors but weren’t able to speak German (fluently) and were culturally more Polish than German. Their motives were mainly economic and they left in search of a better life. Their integration processes were mainly of an assimilatory nature and focused on economic and social integration and language acquisition. This was often accompanied by neglect of their Polish language, heritage and culture. Only after successful integration into the German society, a renewal of their connections to Poland became viable (ibid.). According to Otto (Otto 2019) this was attributed to their wish to first become successful in Germany and to be able to exhibit it on their rare trips back home. As family visits and travel became easily accessible after 1989 again, recollection and emotional reattachment began to rise. The addition of easier and cheaper modes of transportation and communication reduced the imagined distance which led to the reemergence of a Polish community with sociocultural organizations, associations and the import of Polish goods to ethnic shops. The structural integration into the German system kept its importance even for the people who connected strongly with their local Polish communities (ibid.).

While most Western European societies do not profile themselves through religion anymore, being a Christian immigrant and thus sharing similar values and norms does influence integration and immigration positively (Kogan 2020). Theories such as the segmented assimilation theory support and explain the differences between the integration of different cultural and religious groups and show how religion can lead to downwards respectively to upwards mobility (Heath 2021). This can explain the diffusion of Polish religious culture with the German mainstream and the following invisibility as cultural assimilation is easier to achieve (Ohlendorf 2015). This is supported by research performed by Heath (Heath 2021), which shows that Eastern Europeans converge with the majority in terms of cultural integration by the third generation. Generally, the second and especially third generations tend to be more liberal and culturally assimilated into western culture (ibid.).

It is noticeable that their religious intensity lowers while integrating into German society and especially migrants with more social connections in Germany remain less religiously affiliated (Ohlendorf 2015).

As Poland and Germany are both part of the EU, Polish nationals are allowed to vote in communal elections but are not allowed to vote in state or national elections (BMI). It is possible for all Polish Nationals to also gain German citizenship and then have dual citizenship (Deutscher Bundestag 2013). As citizens of another EU country, their need for citizenship and the resulting eagerness to gain citizenship are lower than average (Heath 2021).

Non-European countries have “better scores” regarding citizenship and attachment to home than migrants from European countries (Heath 2021). I expect this to be because Europeans can live and move freely from home to host country and thus can keep up social connections easier.

According to a recent study conducted by Jeran and her colleagues (Jeran 2019), about 46% of the respondents, who were culturally or ethnically connected to Poland, felt already at home in Germany, with only 40% feeling more connected to Poland. Many felt a connection to both countries. Especially respondents of the second or 1.5th generation felt that they have grown into society (ibid.).

Eastern European groups tend to be generally similarly socially integrated as migrants from Western European groups (Heath 2021). In the case of Polish migrants, their language skills influence their social integration remarkably. Respondents with better language skills report more frequent contact to German natives (Babka von Gostomski 2016), which works well with their generally high educational levels.

While structural disadvantages generally exist for first generation Eastern European immigrants, they disappear for second and further generations (Heath 2021). According to a study by MAIS in North Rhine-Westphalia (MAIS 2016), people with Polish heritage have a similar probability to gain university entrance qualifications as the national average and the rate of German born people with Polish heritage is even 10% higher than the national average. This is in stunning contrast to the average person with migration background and shows how well they have integrated structurally. Their employment rate is also nearly identical to the national average and again higher than the average of people with migration background (ibid.).

6. Integration of Czech diaspora in Germany: A quantitative analysis

For the analysis of the Czech minority in Germany, a literature analysis was not viable, as the thematic is still quite underexplored. Therefore, quantitative research was done to gain further knowledge about the integration of Czech compatriots in Germany.

6.1 Methodology

The data used for this quantitative analysis were collected under the Czech grant agency (GAČR) project “Czech diaspora – Multidimensional relations and conditionality of Czechia and host countries” (No.22-08304S, 2022-2024).

The project includes data from (1) Czech compatriots, who (2) had lived for at least one year in Australia, France, Germany, New Zealand, the US, the UK or Northern Ireland. The total amount of respondents amounts to N=699. The data was collected between April 2023 and June 2023 in an online survey in Czech language. In an attempt to reach respondents from a wide spectrum, multiple methods for respondents' approach were attempted. This includes Facebook campaigns, non-random sampling via the project website, via Czech and Czechoslovak abroad organization websites, with the snowball method and via official databases.

For this thesis, I will mainly focus on the data from the quantitative part of the survey, regarding Czech nationals and people of Czech descent living in Germany. A total of N=115 respondents fit these criteria. The last analysis will compare the results of integration and transnationalism of Germany, versus the EU, including Germany, France and the UK, and versus the US in order to take a closer look at how geographical distance impacts the aforementioned variables. These will encompass a total of N=699 respondents. They are divided into respondents from France with N=104, from the US with N=121, from the UK with N=109 and Germany with N=115 or all respectively.

In the following analytical part, most variables in the tables will include the numbers of the questions used, referring to the questionnaire in the appendix. These were kept for more clarity and a better traceability for the reader.

Also, it is necessary to note that the sample is not representative. First, only respondents willing to fill out the questionnaire appear in the sample. Also, some specific groups were easier to reach out to, such as scientists working abroad, who have different characteristics compared

to the total population. This resulted in a higher proportion of females and more educated respondents. Likewise, having a questionnaire in Czech language necessarily shifted the sample towards respondents, whose connections towards the country of origin were still relatively strong. However, as there is no official or unofficial database of Czech diaspora, self-selection was the only data gathering option. A lack of data for the total diaspora population prevents researchers from comparing this sample with that of the 'reference total'. This limits the generalizability of the results, which should thus be treated with cautiously and with its limitations in mind (Janská et al. 2024b).

6.2 Integration dimensions

For the data analysis, the data, or in this case the questions were selected according to the individual integration dimensions criteria on basis of the previous theoretical evaluation.

6.2.1 Structural integration

For the structural integration dimension, I picked out four questions, which are based on generic information regarding structural integration. They include the respondent's current economic status and the occupational qualification level needed for the profession. The remaining two elements are both part of the question of why the respondents currently live outside of Czechia and regard its financial aspect and if their employment fulfills them.

6.2.2 Cultural integration

The research regarding cultural integration, at least according to my division of the integration dimensions, consists only of two different questions. Firstly, the respondents are asked if they are used to living in the new country on a scale of one to five. The second question aims at the respondents' use of the Czech language and is divided into three sub questions, regarding the usage of Czech language at home with their children, at home with their spouse and outside of home. The use of the national language in the private sphere is a strong indicator for integration.

6.2.3 Political integration

The political dimension of integration is based on more profound data, as it consists of six different questions. The most important aspect is the respondent's citizenship, which is followed up by the legal status. I also included if the person is able to vote in Czech elections in their respective country of stay, in this case Germany. Furthermore, are the respondents allowed to vote in German elections, in dependance of their legal status, and do they actually vote. Finally, the last question refers to the respondent's political activity in Germany.

6.2.4 Civic integration

As citizenship and legal status are one of the two pillars of civic integration, they were reused from political integration. The second pillar consists of the feeling of belonging, which again was questioned on a scale from one to five, with one representing affiliation with Germany and five representing affiliation with Czechia. The next question regarding activity or membership in institutions, organizations or associations, again has three sub questions. For the analysis, I only focused on membership in professional and local/interest groups. The next question directly asks how much the respondents feel to be integrated on a scale from one to five. Lastly, I included the question if the respondents want to remigrate back to Czechia.

6.2.5 Social integration

The survey produced the most data on social integration. To begin with, the partners citizenship is scrutinized, as intermarriage is a pretty strong indicator for integration. Furthermore, their children's citizenship is closely linked to the parents' citizenship but also depends on the rules of citizenship acquisition, namely the changes from jus-sanguinis to a more open legal framework. The next question, namely with whom they spend time with during their free time is again divided in three sub questions. Important for social integration is the sub question regarding how often they meet with natives on a scale of one to five. The last two sub-questions inquire about the reason why they live abroad. For the purpose of social integration, I deemed family ties and how much they got used to living in the country as important.

6.2.6 Transnationalism

While it is not one of the five integration dimensions which I used for my thesis, I also created a variable which includes all questions in relation to transnationalism, as it explains a different aspect of integration. The variable contains the frequency of visits to Czechia with higher frequencies resulting in a higher transnational value. Additionally, I added the frequency of contacts with friends and family, the frequency of how active the respondents follow Czech news, and if they enriched the Czech society in regard to social remittances. Higher frequencies or generally more contact with people from Czechia show higher transnational tendencies and are again shown on a scale, increasing from one to five.

These variables were selected according to the research of Janská (Ed.) (2024a) in their book which use the same data.

6.3 Recoding of Data for the quantitative analysis

Some of the data needed to be simplified in order to match the general image of the rest of the dataset.

In the case of *structural integration*, the data for the economic status were quite numerous and differentiated. I thus condensed them into 6 subgroups, which I then ordered according to their importance for structural integration. This led to the creation of the subcategories working, retired, student, stays at home, unemployed and working illegally, ordered in descending order for structural integration. Respondents who are part of the first 3 subgroups, namely working, retired or studying, are all expected to be strongly integrated into the German system, with retired respondents lesser time spent with German coworkers demoting them to second place. Students, who are not yet integrated into the labor market were put into third place, due to their involvement in German educational structures. Respondents staying at home are probably integrated more into social and civic integration dimensions. Unemployed and illegally employed respondents show low signs of structural integration. In order to analyze the qualification level needed for the respondent's employment, I decided to order them from high professional skill needed to no professional skill needed, in descending order, as German natives are more likely to be found in higher occupational positions. The last two variables, the financial aspect and content with the current job, show the respondent's satisfaction with their current situation regarding structural integration. Their content is again showed on a scale from one to five, with five showing the most content and therefore higher content with the overall situation in the new country.

In order to measure *cultural integration*, the variable regarding how accustomed respondents were with living in Germany is scaled from fundamental to not important at all on a scale from five to one. The second variable shows the usage of Czech language at home with the partner, at home with their children and in public, with lesser usage of the Czech language indicating better cultural integration. Again, five represents the least usage of Czech language and one the highest, as lesser usage of the Czech language indicates better integration.

In the case of *political integration*, I chose citizenship as one of the variables. As the research was concluded in multiple countries, I only used the data regarding German, German and Czech, Czech or Czech and other citizenship, again in descending order for political integration. The residency status divides the respondents into six groups, from citizen of the country to staying illegally, in descending order. The next three indicators are directly linked to the ability to vote and the respondents eagerness to fulfil their right to vote. The first one, regarding the ability to vote is a binominal variable, with five representing the ability to vote, while one represents the opposite. The second question inquired about how often the

respondents went to vote on a scale from one to five, with five representing always and one implying that the respondent does not vote. The last question asks the respondents about their general activity in political matters, again on a scale of one to five in descending order from definite political activity to no political activity.

Furthermore, *civic integration* was measured by citizenship and status of residency at first, which are also part of political integration and are therefore explained in a previous paragraph. The second pillar of civic integration has been surveyed in two different questions, namely questioning the respondents feeling of belonging to Germany and their subjective feeling of integration into German society, both on a scale from one to five, with higher numbers representing stronger allegiance to Germany and the perception of being more integrated. The integration into local or interest groups was also each measured on a scale from one to five, with larger numbers representing higher engagement. Lastly, the desire to move back to Czechia was also researched on a scale from one to five, with five representing no plans of repatriation and one representing imminent repatriation.

In order to measure *social integration*, I chose the citizenship of the respondent's partner and children at first. They were categorized equally to the individuals citizenship. The next question is concerning their reason to stay regarding family and out of habit, in which the latter was also already used for cultural integration. The more important family and habits were for the respondents to stay, the higher was their response on the scale from one to five. The next question was regarding family ties back in Czechia, with four representing no remaining family there and one representing their whole family still living in Czechia. The following question is also regarding family ties and analyzes the frequency of contact via social media, telephone or video calls. Again, lower connectivity was chosen to represent better social integration in Germany. The last variable for social integration covers the frequency of social contacts with individuals of the German population, from very often to never, with five representing the highest frequency and one the lowest.

After the analysis of the integration dimensions, I added an analysis regarding *transnationalism*. The data were edited to display the strongest values for transnationalism with the number five and decline afterwards with decreasing values. This needs to be kept in mind in order to understand further examination regarding both transnationalism and integration, as strong values for one often display weak values for the other.

6.4 Overview of the analysis methods used

In order to analyze the quantitative data, I used multiple statistical methods. I began with a short descriptive analysis to create a more nuanced understanding of the data and the subdivision inside the integration dimensions. Furthermore, a correlation analysis was performed to gain a deeper understanding of the impact socioeconomic characteristics have on integration. Specific socioeconomic characteristics, often used in scientific literature regarding integration, were examined for their impact on the respondents integration scores. The next analysis explores the impact of the country of residence on the integration dimensions through an analysis of variance. The utilized partial Eta squared defines the amount of variation explained by the predictor variable in the total variation for the outcome variable (Adams, Conway 2014). In this case, it shows the effect the country of residence has on the integration dimensions. The effect size ranges from 0 to 1. However, Eta squared values of 0.06 already imply a medium sized effect of one variable on the other, and Eta squared values of 0.14 or more imply a large effect (ACS 2024).

Finally, the last analysis, a multiple regression analysis, was used to examine the impact of the single socioeconomic characteristics on respondents integration values, divided into the individual integration dimensions and transnationalism and the respondents place of residence. The utilized adjusted R squared is based on an analysis of a general linear model and presents the proportion of variance in the outcome variable that is explained by the predictor variable estimating the whole group. The slightly larger variable of R squared represents the value which is explained by the predictor variables in the given sample (Ozili 2023). For this analysis, the adjusted R squared explains the impact of the socioeconomic characteristics included in the regression equation on the inspected integration dimension, corrected for the whole Czech diaspora. The informative value of R squared is shown on a scale from 0 to 1, or from 0% to 100%. The model has increased predictive power if the values of R-square or adjusted R-square are higher. In the case of social sciences, lower adjusted R squared values are generally lower. Still, values below 0.1 or 10% are too low for empirical models to be significant. Values until 0.5 or 50% are acceptable, if the individual explanatory variables are statistically significant. The model can therefore easily be used for further examination (ibid.). The regression equation then shows the impact of each of the single socioeconomic characteristics in the model whose significance was shown by the R squared.

7. Discoveries from the quantitative analysis

In this chapter, the analysis, based on the above-mentioned methods, will be realized.

7.1 Average integration characteristics of Czech compatriots per integration dimension

My first analysis was a descriptive analysis focused on the average integration ratio in each one of the integration dimensions. Most of the variables were on a scale from five to one, with a few exceptions, in which the respondents were able to answer that they were not affected by a certain question, or that the answer possibilities did not fit their individual case. These data were then not concluded in the research. In the case of family ties in Czechia, there are just four different answer possibilities. The question regarding the possibility to vote in Germany according to their residential status is a binary question. I chose five for the possibility to vote and one for respondents without the possibility to vote.

Furthermore, I conducted some deeper analysis to gain a better understanding of the topic. These analyses are not shown in the tables but are used to further explain the integration dimensions. These include the percentage data shown in this subchapter.

7.1.1 Structural integration of Czech compatriots in Germany

The averaged value for the four variables which define structural integration in this thesis show a mean of 3,85, as can be seen in Table 1, which indicates a high level of structural integration of the respondents into German society. Especially the current economic status displays high levels of structural integration with a mean of 4,84, which shows that the majority of respondents are employed. However, I had to modify this slightly, as some people gave more than one answer, in which case I chose the higher ranked answer (as an example, someone who responded that he/she is working and on maternity leave is now only labeled as working, as it is only temporary). The necessary qualification level for the respondents' job, shown by the second individual variable, shows that the respondents work in jobs requiring advanced qualification levels. This can be seen especially, if we consider the median of four or that 58.6% of respondents work in jobs with relatively high or high necessary qualification requirements.

Similar numbers can be seen for the financial aspect as the reason to stay, with nearly 65% of respondents viewing it as essential or higher. The data indicate that their occupation is less important for the individuals as a reason to stay. The mean of 3,09 and a closer look at the percentual subdivision show a much more evenly balanced view on the topic.

Table 1 Average structural integration values of Czech compatriots in Germany divided into subcategories

	N		Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
	Valid	Missing				
Structural integration	115	0	3.85	3.75	2	5
13. Economic status (simplified)	115	0	4.84	5.00	1	5
14. Current qualification level	111	4	3.74	4.00	1	5
22a. Financial reason to stay	111	4	3.70	4.00	1	5
22b. work related reasons to stay	111	4	3.09	3.00	1	5

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

7.1.2 Cultural integration

The variables Czech language use and habituality as reason to stay show the lowest integration values with a mean of 3,05 and a median of 3. While the majority does not keep close relations to other Czech speakers outside their home, which can be seen by the mean of 3,63 in Table 2 and that 70% never or hardly at all speak Czech with people from outside their home, 50% speak Czech with their partner and 80% speak Czech with their children. Interestingly, none of the respondents chose the middle option (sometimes) in either of the three language categories. It is also worth noting the low valid numbers for the respondents, as these questions were not relevant for many of them.

In the case of habituality as the reason to stay, which shows how used the respondents are to their lives in Germany, above 50% of respondents viewed it as significant for their stay.

Table 2 Average cultural integration values of Czech compatriots in Germany divided into subcategories

	N		Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
	Valid	Missing				
Cultural integration	113	2	3.05	3.00	1	5
22d. Habituality as reason to stay	111	4	3.49	4.00	1	5
53a. Czech language use - Children	70	45	1.71	1.00	1	5
53b. Czech language use - Partner	76	39	2.83	2.00	1	5
53c. Czech language use - others	62	53	3.63	4.00	1	5

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

7.1.3 Political integration

Table 3 shows that the mean value for the five variables compromising political integration lies at 3,32 with a median of 3,4, culminating in a similar score to civic integration in this research. While the first four variables, namely citizenship, legal status, the possibility to vote and voting activity show promise, other political activity in Germany is really low with only 15% of the respondents being at least slightly politically active. Citizenship is heavily dependent on which value is assigned to Czech citizenship, which is owned exclusively by 67% of respondents. In this case, it was assigned the value of three, as “neutral”. 30% of respondents have German citizenship, with three quarters of them having dual Czech and German citizenship. The legal status shows strong integration values with a mean of 3,9 and a median of 4. This is due to the legality of stay due to citizenship to either Germany or the EU, with some also having received long term legal stay. Around one quarter of respondents are not allowed to vote. The respondents who are allowed to vote boast a median of 3,6 with around half of them vote without exception and one quarter do not vote at all.

If we take out political activity in Germany, political integration would boast a mean of 3,67.

(this shows a well politically integrated Czech community in Germany, with EU citizenship and thus easier accessibility to public institutions aiding the integration process-Conclusion).

Table 3 Average political integration values of Czech compatriots in Germany divided into subcategories

	N		Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
	Valid	Missing				
Political integration	115	0	3.32	3.40	1	5
8. Citizenship	115	0	3.33	3.00	1	5
19. Legal status	115	0	3.90	4.00	1	5
55. possibility to vote	115	0	3.89	5.00	1	5
56. Voting activity	83	32	3.60	4.00	1	5
57. other political activity	115	0	2.04	1.00	1	5

Source: Own projection based on GACR Data

7.1.4 Civic integration

Civic integration has not only a similar average score as political integration with 3,31, but also shares two variables with it, as citizenship and legal status are essential to both and show strong integration values.

Furthermore, Table 4 shows that for sense of belonging, the majority still feels a stronger connection to Czechia, with around 32% being neutral and only around 10% feel more German. However, 75% feel to be either integrated or fully integrated in Germany and only 6%

feel not integrated or not integrated at all. This can be seen by the means of 2,12 for sense of belonging and 4,14 for subjective integration respectively. The desire to remigrate to Czechia is also low, with only 13% of respondents planning to return. The relative low mean of 3,66 can be attributed to a large quantity of undecided respondents.

Finally, the differences in integration in interest and professional associations show that the respondents are more active in professional associations, while activity in interest associations remains quite low.

Table 4 Average civic integration values of Czech compatriots in Germany divided into subcategories

	N		Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
	Valid	Missing				
Civic integration	115	0	3.31	3.29	2	5
8. Citizenship	115	0	3.33	3.00	1	5
19. Legal Status	115	0	3.90	4.00	1	5
47. Sense of belonging	115	0	2.12	2.00	1	5
48a. Professional associations	115	0	3.30	4.00	1	5
48b. Interest associations	115	0	2.72	3.00	1	5
49. Remigration	115	0	3.66	4.00	1	5
52. subjective integration	115	0	4.14	4.00	1	5

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

7.1.5 Social integration

Table 5 shows the second highest mean integration value of 3,74 of the five variables for social integration. This is due to the really high percentage of respondents frequently meeting with locals in their free time, with less than 10% responding negatively. Additionally, around 50% of Children and Partners have German citizenship, with more partners being solely German and more children having multiple nationalities. The majority of the remaining partners and children has Czech nationality, again with a neutral score.

Family and habituality as reasons to stay in Germany show similar trends, with family reasons being slightly more important with a mean of 3,88 and nearly 60% of respondents viewing it as essential. Habituality records a more balanced outcome, but it is still essential to nearly 40% of the respondents.

The large quantities of Czech partners or children are probably due to legal changes to German citizenship law changing as late as 2000 and many partners emigrating together, as can be

seen in earlier responses. Additionally, due to the European Union and the resulting missing necessity to change citizenship.

Table 5 Average social integration values of Czech compatriots in Germany divided into subcategories

	N		Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
	Valid	Missing				
Social integration	115	0	3.74	3.75	2	5
9. Citizenship Partner	92	23	3.58	4.00	1	5
18. Citizenship Children	90	25	3.42	3.00	1	5
54b. Contact with locals	115	0	4.19	5.00	1	5
22c. Family as reason to stay	111	4	3.88	5.00	1	5
22d. Habituality as reason to stay	111	4	3.49	4.00	1	5

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

7.1.6 Transnationalism

Transnationalism, as shown in Table 6, interestingly has higher values than all integration dimensions. Even in the question of how often the respondents have contact with friends or family, over 60% of them have contact multiple times a week. Also, only 15% of respondents visit Czechia once a year or less. The interest in Czech news is also quite high with only 10% showing no or hardly any interest in the topic. For social remittances, nearly 70% of respondents believe that they enriched Czech society themselves. These can all be seen in their high average scores, with all being above 3.7 and with a mean of 3.95.

Altogether, the Czech respondents from Germany show really high transnational tendencies and clear ties back to their homeland.

Table 6 Average transnational values of Czech compatriots in Germany divided into subcategories

	N		Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
	Valid	Missing				
Transnationalism	115	0	3.95	4.00	2	5
30. Social Remittances	115	0	3.84	4.00	1	5
34. Frequency of visits to CZ	115	0	4.29	5.00	1	5
36. Contact with friends and family in CZ	115	0	3.73	4.00	1	5
38. Interest in Czech news	115	0	3.96	4.00	1	5

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

7.1.7 Overview over the gathered integration dimensions of Czech compatriots in Germany

While many of the variables showed only partial integration, the most important aspects of integration into the German society are given. Firstly, the data show a generally strong economic integration. Additionally, the respondents subjective feeling of integration and their social integration into German society, measured by their social contacts, are also really high and promise positive total integration measures.

This can be seen, as the clear majority of Czech compatriots in Germany is working and their job requires relatively high to high qualification levels. This also reflects the possibility of increased financial compensation, as it is quite an important reason for stay for many of the respondents. The data show respondents who are well integrated into the labor market, not just in low skilled or 3D jobs. This stands in steep contrast to the occupation of migrants from Poland and Turkey, as was shown in the above-mentioned literature.

Also, political integration is heavily centered around citizenship and the respondent's consequent ability to vote. Due to the overall majority having either German or Czech, and therefore European citizenship, legality of stay is not an issue. However, the desire to gain German citizenship is equally low, with only one quarter of the respondents owning German citizenship, and two thirds having only Czech citizenship. This does influence their ability to vote, as Czech citizens are only allowed to vote in communal elections and are excluded from national or state elections (BMI n.a.). This can be seen in the data, as many were excluded from voting. The data showed steep contrasts between the respondents who were able to vote, as one quarter was not voting at all, while around one half of them claimed to vote without exception. Altogether, the inclusion in European institutions certainly helps their integration

process through easier accessibility and less barriers. At the same time, this probably does diminish the respondents' desire to gain German citizenship though.

The main aspect of cultural integration is the respondent's usage of the native language (Heath 2021). This was thoroughly analyzed in the data, as the usage of Czech language was divided into three aspects, namely with the respondents' children, their partner and outside of home. It is also necessary to consider, that many of the respondents didn't respond to these questions as they were not relevant to them. The data shows, however, that nearly all affected respondents speak Czech with their children, and the majority speak Czech with their partner. The usage of Czech language outside of home shows much lower values though, which indicates infrequent or few contacts with fellow Czech compatriots in Germany. Overall, cultural integration shows the lowest integration scores, due to the remaining importance of Czech language use for many respondents. The low usage of Czech outside of home, nonetheless, depicts stronger integration than the overall cultural integration score.

In addition to citizenship, which was already discussed in political integration, the sense of belonging, the desire to remigrate and subjective integration are intrinsic to the understanding of civic integration. While the majority still feel a much stronger connection to Czechia, they generally do not want to remigrate and feel strongly integrated into German society. This indicates at much more of a transnational relationship, than low civic integration, as the respondents generally feel integrated and want to stay, while upholding an emotional connection to Czechia.

Likewise, intermarriage is one of the key integration measures in the classic assimilation theory (Karimi 2023) and is represented in the social integration dimension according to Heath (2021). This also directly relates to the citizenship of the respondent's children. Around half of the partners and children have German citizenship, even though, especially the children tend to have multiple citizenships. These still large quantities of Czech partners or children are probably due to legal changes to German citizenship law changing as late as 2000 and many partners emigrating together, as can be seen in earlier responses. Additionally, this could be due to the European Union and the resulting missing necessity to change citizenship.

While transnationalism is not one of the integration dimensions, and its effect on integration is not quite clear, it still needs to be part of this analysis, as it is important for today's understanding of integration (Tedeschi et al. 2022) (as was shown in the theoretical part of the thesis). The data show the respondent as highly transnational, as can be seen in their frequency of visits, their contact to friends and family in Czechia, their continuing interest in Czech news and the aspect of social remittances. The majority of respondents visit Czechia regularly, mostly multiple times a year, keep in contact friends or family multiple times a week, read Czech news and influence their associates in Czechia.

This showcases the new direction to which today's integration tendencies turn, as is described by Schiller (1992) in which migrants form and maintain relations across borders and show integration and embeddedness in both, the host and origin societies as explained by Tan and his colleagues (2018).

This again raises the question if transnationalism hinders integration, as claimed by Carling (2014) or if transnationalism can be beneficial to integration (Portes et al. 2002). This question leads us further to the correlation analysis.

7.2 The analysis of the impact of socioeconomic characteristics on integration

In order to differentiate between individual groups and to further specify indicators for integration, researchers examine the differences certain sociodemographic characteristics have on integration measures. A literature review revealed which sociodemographic attributes are often used for integration measurements in Germany, especially regarding Polish and Turkish immigrant groups. While Religion has been intensely used for both groups, such as in papers from Babka von Gostomski (2022) or in the annual report of various German foundations regarding migration and integration (SdSIM 2014), it will not be especially helpful in my research on Czech citizens. Other sociodemographic attributes, such as gender (Babka von Gostomski 2022; Kosyakova et al. 2023; Zimmermann, Hinte 2005; Karcher 2010; Haug 2008), education (Kosyakova et al. 2023; De Groot, Sager 2010; SdSIM 2014; Seibert 2011; Ohlendorf 2021; Caballero, Caballero 2009; Karcher 2010; Woellert et al. 2009) family status (Babka von Gostomski 2022, Karcher 2010, Woellert et al. 2009), length of stay (Babka von Gostomski 2022, Karcher 2010), age (Haug 2008, Karcher 2010), but also language proficiency (De Groot, Sager 2010; Zimmermann, Hinte 2005; Caballero, Caballero 2009; Haug 2008) and economic indicators (SdSIM 2014; Woellert et al. 2009; Zimmermann, Hinte 2005) are often used to differentiate integration results.

I will therefore apply them in my empiric research and figure out how the integration dimensions differ for the individual sociodemographic groups.

To begin the analysis, some basic data assessments needed to be made. For that, I looked up the descriptive statistics for each one of the socioeconomic variables to ensure standard distribution, or at least no extreme values. The age and education distribution are close to a normal distribution, with age having slightly more younger people and education slightly leaning towards higher education graduates. For gender, there are about twice as many female respondents as there are male. The length of stay is characterized by many people staying in

Germany for up to ten years and a following rapid decrease in quantities for higher years of residency. For family status, nearly 65% of the respondents are married, around 15% are in a relationship or divorced, 5% are single and one person is widowed or a widow. Therefore, I have to take these factors into account during the data analysis.

Furthermore, the data were checked for multicollinearity, linearity and homoscedasticity. This was done with a linear regression analysis, checking the P-P plot for linearity, the VIF (Variance Inflation Factor) for multicollinearity and the scatterplot analysis for homoscedasticity. The dependent variable was the respective integration dimension, whereas the independent variables were the socioeconomic values. All data satisfy the necessary prerequisites, as VIF values ranged from 1 to slightly above 2 (maximum of 2.023), the expected residuals followed the observed residuals, and the scatterplots showed no obvious patterns.

In order to inspect the relationship between integration and these socioeconomic values, a correlation analysis has thus been performed. The correlation analyses have been performed with the Pearson correlation coefficient, as the data fulfils the necessary prerequisites as figured out above.

7.2.1 The correlation analysis of integration dimensions and socioeconomic characteristics

The length of stay significantly correlates with all integration dimensions, as can be seen in Table 7. Interestingly, only structural integration shows negative correlation, which means that respondents who already live in Germany for a longer time are worse structurally integrated. All other dimensions show rising integration values with increasing length of stay.

Table 7 Correlation analysis of length of stay and the integration dimensions

	2. Length of stay		
	Pearson Correlation	Sig. (2-tailed)	N
2. Length of stay	1		115
Structural integration	-.226*	0.015	115
Political integration	.397**	0.000	115
Cultural integration	.375**	0.000	113
Civic integration	.334**	0.000	115
Social integration	.230*	0.013	115
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).			
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

For age, similar results were expected, and again, only structural integration shows a negative correlation with age as can be seen in Table 8. However, only structural and political integration shows significant correlation at all, with political integration displaying slightly increasing tendencies with age. The other dimensions are, while increasing with age, not significant.

Table 8 Correlation analysis of age and the integration dimensions

	4. Age		
	Pearson Correlation	Sig. (2-tailed)	N
4. Age	1		115
Structural integration	-.306**	0.001	115
Political integration	.218*	0.019	115
Cultural integration	0.179	0.058	113
Civic integration	0.086	0.359	115
Social integration	0.098	0.295	115
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).			
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

As for gender, women are better integrated socially. As can be seen in Table 9, all other dimensions show no significant correlation.

Table 9 Correlation analysis of gender and integration dimensions

	5. Gender		
	Pearson Correlation	Sig. (2-tailed)	N
5. Gender	1		115
Structural integration	0.057	0.542	115
Political integration	0.040	0.672	115
Cultural integration	-0.026	0.782	113
Civic integration	-0.121	0.196	115
Social integration	-.239*	0.010	115
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).			
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

The socioeconomic variables of education and family status do not show any significant correlation with any of the integration dimensions.

7.2.2 Deeper insights into the correlation of socioeconomic characteristics and integration dimensions

This means that respondents who migrated to Germany more recently, show better structural integration scores. Especially the importance of financial and work-related aspects decreases with time and younger respondents are more likely to work. All other integration dimensions increase over time. Additionally, for women, their family tends to be a much more important reason to stay than for men, which is the main reason for the significance of gender for social integration.

To gain a better understanding of the topic, I decided to take a closer look at some of the individual variables. To choose the one or two most significant variables for their respective dimensions, in regard to the definition of integration dimensions by Heath (Heath 2021). For structural integration, I chose the qualification necessary for the respondents current job, as higher status employment shows their incorporation into the primary segment of the economy according to the dual labor market theory (Klimczuk 2016). Being part of the primary segment, meant for the local population, shows high structural integration. For political integration, I chose the voting patterns of the respondents, as it represents an important step to acceptance into the host society (Gordon 1964; Heath et al. 2013; Jones-Correa 1998; Ramakrishnan 2005, cit. in Chaudhary 2018). For social integration I selected the variables regarding social contact with Germans during the respondents leisure time and the citizenship of the partner, as they showcase the social integration of the individual into the majority group according to Heath (Heath 2021). For aspect of cultural integration, I decided to use the variable of speaking Czech outside of home, as it shows the respondents language usage and connectivity to the local population. Finally, I chose citizenship and subjective affiliation as the most defining variables for civic integration (Heath 2021).

The results show that the current economic status does not significantly correlate with any of the socioeconomic variables. The variable for political integration, namely voting activity, correlates with length of stay and also a bit less with age. Social integration interestingly only correlates with family status, which means that people in relationships are better socially integrated into the German society. The usage of Czech language outside of home, or the intensity of Czech contacts, again does not significantly correlate with any of the socioeconomic variables. The subjective feeling of integration increases with increasing length of stay. Lastly, citizenship correlates positively with age and length of stay, which means that the respondents care for political and civic integration with increasing time spent in Germany. The last correlation analysis was made with transnationalism and the selected socioeconomic values. Transnationalism significantly declines with length of stay and age, while it increases

with the individuals education level. This implies that younger and more educated Czechs show larger transnational values.

Furthermore, the correlation between transnationalism and the integration dimensions was analyzed, as well as the correlations between the individual integration dimensions in Table 10.

Transnationalism correlates positively with structural integration, which means that better structurally integrated respondents also show higher transnational tendencies. On the contrary, transnationalism correlates negatively with all the other integration dimensions, although the correlation is only significant in the case of cultural integration.

Structural integration does not correlate significantly with any other integration dimension. The other four dimensions, on the other hand, correlate significantly with each other with high values of .42 for civic and political integration, which makes sense as they share a couple of variables. But the other dimensions also correlate significantly with each other with values ranging from .2 to .4.

Table 10 Correlation of all integration dimensions and transnationalism

		Transnationalism	Structural integration	Cultural integration	Civic integration	Political integration	Social integration
Transnationalism	Pearson Correlation	1	.282**	-.214*	-0.156	-0.090	-0.051
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.002	0.023	0.097	0.338	0.586
	N	115	115	113	115	115	115
Structural integration	Pearson Correlation	.282**	1	0.026	0.039	-0.180	0.008
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.002		0.781	0.682	0.055	0.931
	N	115	115	113	115	115	115
Cultural integration	Pearson Correlation	-.214*	0.026	1	.204*	.205*	.415**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.023	0.781		0.031	0.029	0.000
	N	113	113	113	113	113	113
Civic integration	Pearson Correlation	-0.156	0.039	.204*	1	.420**	.325**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.097	0.682	0.031		0.000	0.000
	N	115	115	113	115	115	115
Political integration	Pearson Correlation	-0.090	-0.180	.205*	.420**	1	.384**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.338	0.055	0.029	0.000		0.000
	N	115	115	113	115	115	115
Social integration	Pearson Correlation	-0.051	0.008	.415**	.325**	.384**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.586	0.931	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	N	115	115	113	115	115	115
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).							
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).							

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

Furthermore, it would be interesting to know how transnationalism correlates with the respondents desire to (re-)migrate to Czechia? As Table 11 shows, transnationalism significantly correlates with all but with social remittances. While transnationalism is strongest with higher values, the plan to return to Czechia decreases with increasing values. Therefore, increasing transnational values increase the probability of the respondent planning their remigration to Czechia.

While this implies that stronger transnational values increase the probability of remigration, and thus might have negative impact on the individuals integration, further analysis will show that transnational migrant groups still can be well integrated into society, especially in the case of the Czech migrants in Germany.

Table 11 Correlation of remigration and transnationalism

	49. Plan to remigrate		
	Pearson Correlation	Sig. (2-tailed)	N
49. Plan to remigrate	1		115
Trans- nationalism	-.368**	0.000	115
30. Social remittances	-0.156	0.097	115
34. Frequency of visits	-.253**	0.006	115
36. Contact with friends and family	-.297**	0.001	115
38. Interest in Czech news	-.244**	0.009	115

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

7.2.3 Summary of the impact of socioeconomic characteristics on integration dimensions

While transnationalism correlates significantly and positively with structural integration, it correlates negatively with all other integration dimensions, however, only significantly with cultural integration. This can be attributed to language usage, as lesser usage of the Czech language relates to better cultural integration scores. Transnationalism on the other hand, and the upholding of transborder connections support language retainment. Having said that, the positive correlation of structural integration and transnationalism supports the claims made by Portes and his colleagues (2002) regarding the positive influence of transnationalism and its economic benefits on structural integration.

Furthermore, the interdependency of the socioeconomic variables with the integration dimensions was analyzed. Interestingly, education and family status did not influence the

respondent's integration significantly at all, while gender only significantly influenced social integration, as women showed a stronger social integration score on average. Age and length of stay, however, have stronger impact on integration. The data indicates that older respondents, or respondents with increasing length of stay display lower structural integration values. Especially respondents with increasing age are showcasing lower qualification levels and view their job as less relevant for their stay. This is further assisted by the positive correlation values shown for the other integration dimensions, as increased length of stay leads to better values for all other integration dimensions. Age differs from length of stay, as civic and social integration show insignificant correlation values. For social integration, this is because respondents who have lived in Germany for a longer time are more likely to have German children due to German citizenship laws. Since 2000, descendants of migrants automatically gain German citizenship, if at least one parent lives in Germany for at least 8 years (Auswärtiges Amt 2024). Increasing length of stay also significantly increases subjective integration and decreases the desire to remigrate. Age has less impact on these aspects, implying that there are many older circular or short-term migrants.

7.3 The impact of the country of residence on the integration dimensions

As the next step for this analysis, I wanted to know how the different integration dimensions are influenced by the country of residence. For this analysis, I chose to use the full dataset to compare the countries in which the research was conducted. This could show how either distance (Janská et al. 2024b) to the native country, different policies towards Intereuropean migrants or migrants from high-income countries such as Czechia, influence integration.

For this and the next analysis, I used the whole dataset of 669 respondents. Additionally, I had to furthermore modify the variables citizenship, the partners citizenship and the children's citizenship. For these analyses, they are coded as binary variables. The variables are now projected with the value of 5 for owning the country of residence's citizenship and the value of 1 if they do not.

7.3.1 Analysis of the impact of the country of residence on the integration dimensions

I will begin with the transnational dimension in this case, as it has shown the most significant differences between the countries.

The ANOVA-analysis, shown in Table 12, displayed significant differences between the groups for how transnational the respondents were according to their current country of residence. The Eta-squared of .134 shows that 13.4% of the respondents differences in transnational

lifestyle can be attributed to the country. According to Cohen (1988), this means that the independent variable of country has a medium effect on the dependent variable of transnationalism. However, from 14% on, this effect would be already considered as large, which lets me interpret the effect as medium to large.

Table 12 The impact of the country of residence on the respondents transnational characteristics

		Transnationalism
		Eta-squared
Point Estimate		0.134
95% Confidence Interval	Lower	0.084
	Upper	0.176

Source: Own projection based on GACR Data

The data also show the highest values for transnationalism in Germany with a mean of 3.95 compared to the average of 3.53 for all countries combined.

Likewise, the country of residence shows medium effect on the social integration of the respondents (Cohen 1988, ACS 2024) as can be seen in Table 13. However, while the country of residence does influence social integration, the differences between the countries are mostly not statistically significant.

Table 13 The impact of the country of residence on the respondents social integration

		Social integration
		Eta-squared
Point Estimate		0.060
95% Confidence Interval	Lower	0.025
	Upper	0.092

Source: Own projection based on GACR Data

It is noteworthy that Germany has the third lowest average social integration score with 3.65, lower than France and the US at 3.91 and Australia. The UK's score is nearly identical, while New Zealand is quite lower at 3.23.

Civic integration is similarly influenced by the country of residence, as the eta squared shows a value of 0.05, or that 5% of civic integration is influenced by the country. Also, Germany has a higher average civic integration score with 3.16 than The UK at 3.05, while showing lower scores than the US at 3.37 and France at 3.39.

Table 14 The impact of the country of residence on the respondents political integration

Scheffe ^{a,b}			
Country	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05	
		1	2
New Zealand	108	2.89	
UK	109	2.92	
France	104	2.94	
Germany	115	3.04	3.04
Australia	112	3.42	3.42
USA	121		3.52
Sig.		0.052	0.110
Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.			
a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 111.240.			
b. The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.			

Source: Own projection based on GACR Data

The analysis of variance for political integration shows quite an interesting outcome, as there are large differences between the countries average scores as displayed in Table 14, but only around 4,4% of this variance is explained by the country of residence. While Germany has the third highest score of all countries with 3.04, The US and Australia show much higher average Numbers at 3.52 and 3.42 respectively. Also, the other European countries as well as NZ show only marginally lower numbers at around 2.9.

Cultural integration is also explained by country for around 4% of the cases, at 4,2%. France, the UK and Australia, however, show much higher cultural integration values of around 3.35 and 3.51 or 3.53 respectively, with NZ and the US perform only slightly worse than Germany at 3.05.

Structural integration is not significantly dependent on the country of residence and only around 1% of the values is explained by the country. All countries show quite high values though, starting with France at 3.57 up to Germany at 3.85.

7.3.2 Discussion of the impact of the country of residence on the integration dimensions

The analysis of variance was used to show the differences in the respondents integration scores regarding to their respective country of residence. Structural integration is hardly influenced by the country of residence at all, as can be seen by the Eta² of 1,1% (Cohen 1988, ACS 2024). The country of residence has a medium effect on all other integration dimensions (ACS 2024). Further inspection revealed that citizenship plays an important role in this case, as citizenship, and the citizenship of the children are heavily influenced by the respective countries with Eta²s of 0.124 and 0.09 respectively. While European countries show low shares of respondents with the countries citizenship, reaching from an average score of 1.92 in Britain to 2.35 in France, most respondents from the US have US citizenship as can be seen in Table 15 by their average score of 3.71.

Table 15 The differences between the countries regarding the respondents citizenship

Scheffe ^{a,b}			
Country	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05	
		1	2
UK	109	1.92	
Germany	115	2.25	
New Zealand	108	2.33	
France	104	2.35	
Australia	112		3.57
USA	121		3.71
Sig.		0.707	0.997
Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.			
a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 111.240.			
b. The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.			

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

In the case of the respondents' children, more have their respective country's of residence citizenship. For the respondents from Germany, interestingly, the children show the lowest scores regarding German citizenship, with similar trends for the other European countries. For the respondents from the US, nearly all have American citizenship as can be seen in Table 16.

Table 16 The differences between the countries regarding the citizenship of the respondents children

Scheffe ^{a,b}				
Country	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05		
		1	2	3
Germany	90	3.22		
UK	58	3.48	3.48	
France	67	3.99	3.99	3.99
New Zealand	41		4.22	4.22
USA	103		4.42	4.42
Australia	65			4.63
Sig.		0.245	0.075	0.441
Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.				
a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 64.682.				
b. The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.				

Source: Own projection based on GACR Data

Quite shockingly, respondents from Germany are more likely to have a partner from Germany than German children. In France, the numbers are nearly identical, but in the US, the partner is less likely to have American citizenship. This could certainly be influenced by the countries integration and citizenship policies.

Another important aspect of integration, namely the possibility to vote, is influenced by the country of residence with a sizeable Eta² of 0.06. This can be mainly attributed to France having a significantly lower voting average than the rest of the countries with 2.88 compared to around 3.8 for the US and Germany and 4.49 for the UK. The voting activity does differ much

less, but interestingly, it has its lowest values for the UK, even though they are allowed to vote in local elections (The Electoral Commission 2024), similar to the legislative in Germany. In the US, the higher voting activity can be explained by the higher citizenship percentage.

In Germany, nearly all respondents are working, with an average score of 4.84 out of 5. The country with the lowest average score, France, still has a high score with 4.38, however, showing the high priority of employment for Czech emigrants.

Furthermore, family as the reason to stay has the highest scores in continental Europe, showing the importance of family for settling down when it is uncomplicated to migrate within EU borders.

A quick check of the other variables regarding the integration dimensions hasn't shown any significant impact on the data.

However, the effect of the country of residence on transnationalism is higher than on all of the integration dimensions. While the respondents from Germany had already shown the largest transnational tendencies, a closer look at its variables shows them excelling especially in one aspect. The frequency of visits. The η^2 for the dependency of frequency of visits on the country shows a staggering 0.445 or 44,5%, which makes it easily the most expressive variable in this dataset. The visits are also declining with distance, dropping from a mean value of 4.29 for respondents from Germany to 3.44 in France, to 3.29 in the UK and to 2.69 in the US. While this trend is also mostly reproduced for the variables of keeping contact and interest in current events, the extent is profoundly reduced.

7.4 The influence of socioeconomic variables on integration processes

This following analysis will illustrate how much the individual socioeconomic variables impact the integration process or the respondents transnational behavior of Czech compatriots.

First, some background checks as for homoscedasticity, multicollinearity and linearity were necessary. These tests, however, were already performed before for the Anova analysis. Secondly, I had to change the variable of family status to a binary variable. I therefore divided the respondents into two groups, namely with and without a partner. Furthermore, I chose the stepwise method to gain better understanding for the impact of the individual variables. Also, age and length of stay correlated. Therefore, age was not included in this analysis.

The analysis was subdivided into four different partial analysis. First, the respondents from Germany were analyzed. Further analysis was made to create a better understanding of the differences of integration for the countries of France, the UK and again, Germany, which will

from now on be referred to as EU, as they represent three of the main immigration countries in Europe. The third analysis will regard the respondents from the US and the last one will encompass data from all six countries, including the data from Australia and New Zealand.

7.4.1 Transnational behavior of Czech compatriots

I will begin with the transnational behavior of Czech compatriots this time, as it shows the largest impact of all integration dimensions, with an adjusted R² of 0.29 or 29%. That means that 29% of the dependent variable can be explained through the independent variable. According to Ozili (2023), this is an acceptable result in social sciences, as long as some of the variables are significant.

Table 17 shows that in the case of the respondents from Germany, transnationalism is dependent on the respondents education level, their length of stay and their family status. While education increases transnational tendencies, length of stay and family status decrease them. The valid regression equation which explains reality most precisely therefore is model 3, which sounds as follows:

*The level of transnational behavior = 3.854 + 0.18 * the education level – 0.015 * the years of stay – 0.359 if the respondent is in a relationship (family status).*

The only variable which had no impact on the analysis was gender.

Table 17 Impact of socioeconomic characteristics on transnational behavior of Czech compatriots in Germany

Model		(Constant)	6. Education	2. Length of stay	Family status
Unstandardized Coefficients	B	3.854	0.180	-0.015	-0.359
	Std. Error	0.219	0.043	0.005	0.131
Standardized Coefficients	Beta		0.379	-0.302	-0.241
t		17.636	4.149	-3.377	-2.739
Sig.		0.000	0.000	0.001	0.007

Source: Own projection based on GACR Data

Table 18 will showcase the regression equations of the other analyzed groups.

Table 18 Impact of socioeconomic characteristics on transnational behavior of Czech compatriots in the EU, in the US and in all involved countries

EU	<i>The level of transnationalism = 3.654 – 0.016 * the years of stay + 0.103 * the education level.</i>
USA	<i>The level of transnationalism = 3.337 – 0.014 * the years of stay + 0.113 * the education level.</i>
All data	<i>The level of transnationalism = 3.525 – 0.014* the years of stay + 0.074* the education level.</i>

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

For the respondents from the EU, the adjusted R² is at 0.13, with only length of stay and education influencing transnationalism. For the US, the adjusted R² increases slightly to 0.148, with length of stay and education being influencing transnationalism. If we take a look at the full dataset, again, length of stay and education significantly impact the respondents' transnational tendencies. The respondents relationship status and gender were excluded by the model, as they are not significant. This model, however, only describes 10,1% of the variability, which according to Ozili (2023), is the lowest possible acceptable score which is still applicable in social sciences.

Therefore, for the respondents from Germany, education levels, length of stay and their relationship status impact their transnational tendencies significantly, even though they only account for roughly 30% of the dependent variable. But if we compare it to all the respondents, the respondents relationship loses significance, as does the model, as it only explains roughly 10% of the dependent variable. The informative value of the model for respondents from the EU and the US also dropped to 13% or 14,8% respectively.

7.4.2 Structural integration behavior of Czech compatriots

The multiple regression analysis for structural integration and the socioeconomic variables, displays lower adjusted R² values than acceptable (Ozili 2023) with values of 4% for respondents from Germany, 6% for respondents from the EU, 3% for respondents from the US and 8% for all, respectively. Therefore, the socioeconomic variables have a low impact on structural integration.

The model for structural integration in Germany shows only length of stay as significant, with increasing length of stay slightly decreasing the respondents structural integration. For all respondents, gender and education levels increase structural integration, while length of stay also slightly decreases structural integration.

7.4.3 Cultural integration behavior of Czech compatriots

The adjusted R² for most analysis was too low, as the adjusted R² for whole dataset is at 0.051, for the EU it is at 0.075 and for the US its only at 0.035 (Ozili 2023), but for Germany, the adjusted R² shows that 12,7% of the dependent value are explained by the independent

values. The only important variable is the length of stay. The subsequent regression equation can be seen in Table 19.

Table 19 Impact of socioeconomic characteristics on the cultural integration of Czech compatriots in Germany

Germany	<i>Cultural integration = 2.457 + 0.32 * years of stay.</i>
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Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

For the next three integration dimensions, namely political, social and civic integration, I used the rewritten data regarding citizenship, which were also used for the Anova analysis, as it is the only way in which I could realistically compare the individual groups. The data then, however, shows higher R² values than previous run-throughs for the respondents from Germany due to the simplification of the variables for citizenship. The other three integration dimensions are not impacted by this change.

7.4.4 Political integration behavior of Czech compatriots

Political integration shows significant adjusted R² values for all groups (Ozili 2023), with 23,7% for respondents from Germany, 22,3% for the EU, 30,6% for the US and 25,9% for all respondents.

Table 20 Impact of socioeconomic characteristics on the political integration of Czech compatriots in Germany, in the EU, in the US and in all involved countries

Germany	<i>Political integration = 2.310 + 0.41* the years of stay.</i>
EU	<i>Political integration = 1.846 + 0.044 * the length of stay + 0.103 * the education level.</i>
USA	<i>Political integration = 2.708 + 0.05 * the length of stay – 0.528 if the respondent is male.</i>
All data	<i>Political integration = 1.820 + 0.05 * length of stay + 0.124 * the education level.</i>

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

In the case of Germany, political integration is only significantly dependent on the respondents length of stay. The results of the respondents from the EU and in the case of all respondents are similar, as length of stay and the education level significantly shape political integration. For the US, gender, next to length of stay also plays a role in political integration.

It makes sense that political integration grows significantly with increasing length of stay, as it should be, but it is quite interesting that, as can be seen in Table 20, education doesn't play a significant role for the respondents in Germany and the US but does for the whole group and Europe. Could this be due to the different educational level proportions of Czech migrants in Germany in contrast to the rest?

7.4.5 Civic integration behavior of Czech compatriots

The adjusted R² shows that in the case of the whole dataset, civic integration is explained by 17.7% through the socioeconomic variables, which is clearly above the threshold of 10% by Ozili (2023). These numbers are similar for the adjusted R² of the respondents from the EU at 16,7%, for Germany at 16,9% and for the US at 16,4%. The model is therefore valuable and the resulting regression equations can be seen in Table 21.

For all respondents as well as for the respondents from the EU, education additionally plays an important role for civic integration.

Table 21 Impact of socioeconomic characteristics on the civic integration of Czech compatriots in Germany, in the EU, in the US and in all involved countries

Germany	<i>Civic integration = 2.737 + 0.024 times the years of stay.</i>
EU	<i>Civic integration= 2.431 + 0.027 * the years of stay *+ 0.084 * the education level.</i>
USA	<i>Civic integration = 3.025 + 0.020 times the years of stay.</i>
All data	<i>Civic integration (all) = 2.504 + 0.026 times the years of stay + 0.079 * the education level.</i>

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

7.4.6 Social integration behavior of Czech compatriots

For the whole dataset, social integration is explained by 17,8% through the socioeconomic variables (Ozili 2023), as is shown by the adjusted R² value. This is similar in the case of social integration in the EU, with a R² value of 16.9%. In the case of the respondents from Germany, the adjusted R² value is also above the necessary threshold at 13,2%. The model values gender and length of stay as significant variables. In the US, the model is even stronger with a R² of 0.231 or 23,1%. The three significant independent variables in this case are gender and family status and the length of stay. The regression equations for all respondents and EU respondents are similar, as can be seen below in Table 22.

Table 22 Impact of socioeconomic characteristics on the social integration of Czech compatriots in Germany, in the EU, in the US and in all involved countries

Germany	<i>Social integration = 3.422 + 0.022 * the years of stay – 0.52 if the respondent is male.</i>
EU	<i>Social integration = 3.050 + 0.28 * the years of stay – 0.388 if the respondent is male + 0.088 per education level.</i>
USA	<i>Social integration = 2.786 + 0.867 if the respondent is in a relationship + 0.02 * the years of stay – 0.522 if the respondent is male.</i>
All data	<i>Social integration = 3.149 + 0.029 * the years of stay – 0.424 if the respondent is male + 0.056 per education level.</i>

Source: Own projection based on GAČR Data

7.4.7 Summary of the impact of social characteristics on integration and transnationalism

This analysis was used to showcase how different socioeconomic variables impact the integration process in different countries. Again, the recoded citizenship variables were used for social, political and civic integration. Furthermore, the R^2 of the resulting data was analyzed according to Ozili (2023).

If we take a look at transnationalism, it is being influenced by the educational level and the length of stay in all four instances. With increasing length of stay, transnational tendencies tend to lower, while increasing education intensifies them in contrast. For Germany, being in a relationship plays a negative role for the respondents transnationalism. While this is only a rough estimate, 12 years of living in Germany has a similar decreasing effect on the respondents transnational tendencies as it is increased for each additional level of education. Being married decreases transnationalism by double the aforementioned effect.

While the influence of the length of stay remains similar over all four examined groups, the importance of education is reduced in the other examined countries.

It is necessary to also take into account the informational value of these equations, as they drop from 30% for Germany to 14-10% for the rest. Thus, transnationalism in Germany can be better described through the regression equation, while transnationalism in the other observed countries is stronger influenced by other variables.

Cultural integration is only significantly dependent on the years of stay in Germany, with increasing cultural integration values for respondents who live in Germany for a longer time. Also, structural integration is not significantly dependent on any of the socioeconomic factors.

In contrast, the informational values of the equations are all between 20 and 30% for political integration. The integration dimension is again heavily dependent on the length of stay, this time increasing with time. For the EU and all cases, the education level also increases its integration value. The length of stay has a more influential impact, as only two to three years of stay have a similar positive impact as an additional education level. In the US, gender also plays a role, as males tend to show lower political integration levels, roughly equaling 10 years of stay. In Germany, political integration is only significantly influenced by the length of stay.

For civic integration, the informational value is only around 17% for all groups. The length of stay has again its ever-present impact, however, decreased in half compared to the impact it has on political integration. For all cases, and the EU, increasing education levels increase civic integration by roughly three years of stay.

Social integration is the only dimension where gender always plays a role next to the length of stay. Male respondents show significantly lower integration scores, as, for respondents from

Germany, an equivalent of around 25 years of stay would be necessary for them to have similar social integration values as women. This is similar for respondents from the US, whereas respondents from the EU and all respondents show slightly less drastic values. The higher social integration values can be seen in all subcategories in the data. For the last two groups, education also slightly increases the integration values.

The differences in social integration for gender comply with the general understanding of migration as a highly gendered process, with different migration and integration processes and differing comprehension of goals (Anastasiadou et al. 2023). The comparison of the better social integration with the general agreement of women being burdened with additional discrimination due to their gender (Anastasiadou et al. 2023), has to be examined in another research.

Therefore, in general, length of stay is the most important aspect for all integration dimensions, with increasing values for all, but structural integration. Also, transnationalism decreases slightly with the length of stay. The education level also seems to be important for overall integration, but interestingly shows low impact for integration in Germany. Some of the variables also show a decrease in integration values for male respondents, such as in social and civic integration.

8. Conclusion

In this thesis, the integration of Czech compatriots into German society was explored, examining their behaviors, definitions, rationales, and the key characteristics that influence their integration efforts. To achieve this, a theoretical evaluation of how immigrants assimilate into new societies and which communities they establish was conducted. Following that, a quantitative analysis (as detailed in Chapter 6.1) was performed to gain a deeper understanding of the under-researched topic of Czech compatriots' integration in Germany.

Firstly, the data analysis and secondary literature showed that the Czech diaspora exhibits strong transnational tendencies and integration values. This conclusion is supported by data indicating that respondents are deeply embedded in both their host and home societies, aligning with the work of Schiller et al. (1992) and Tan et al. (2018), as well as evidence of significant cross-border movement, which Itzigson et al. (1999) deemed essential. Moreover, Vertovec's (2003) theoretical premises are further supported by the respondents' responses, including the formation of social networks, a strong sense of belonging to Czechia, the transmission of language to their children, and their political engagement in the home country. The low desire to remigrate to Czechia strengthens the indication of robust integration values, the data reveal that only 13% of respondents plan to return in the coming years, while over 50% do not intend to remigrate.

This does already endorse the first hypothesis and answers the first research question as most respondents behave in a transnational manner, while being successfully integrated into German society.

Secondly, the thesis aimed to investigate how specific characteristics of Czech compatriots and various external factors influence their integration process in Germany, how they reproduce current assimilation theories, and how they compare to results from the other selected countries.

Unambiguously, length of stay has played a crucial role in all aspects of integration except for structural integration. This observation highlights the relevance of classic assimilation theory in understanding the integration of Czech compatriots in Germany. Especially, as Park and Gordon (as cited in Karimi 2023) viewed assimilation as a lengthy process, where structural integration paved the way for further, other forms of integration and later led to intermarriage and finally identification with the new society. The data indicates solid structural integration from the outset, while other integration dimensions appear to improve over time spent in Germany. However, intermarriage and individual identification still show room for growth. The data reveals no clear correlation between the citizenship of respondents' partners and the

length of stay as well as the respondents strong emotional attachment to Czechia. In summary, nearly all respondents are employed in Germany and experience increasingly better integration over time. Nevertheless, they maintain a close relationship and strong emotional ties to Czechia. This may be attributed to the generally transnational lifestyle of most respondents. Although classic assimilation theory explains part of how Czech emigrants integrate into Germany, it overlooks important aspects such as the rise of transnationalism, the limited impact of length of stay on intermarriages, and the persistent significance of the Czech language and national identity.

The second theory discussed in this thesis is segmented assimilation theory, which argues that the social class into which the first generation integrates significantly influences the subsequent generations. This theory is supported by the case studies (see chapter 5.1) presented. In the empirical research, the data does not differ between generations, making interpretation of the findings regarding segmented assimilation theory more challenging. However, younger respondents generally have better structural integration scores and have achieved significantly higher education levels. In the case of Czech respondents in Germany, education did not seem to significantly impact any of the integration dimensions. In contrast, data from selected EU countries (France, the UK, and Germany) and across all six examined countries indicate that education plays a significant positive role in civic, political, and social integration.

The last theory, known as the new assimilation theory, is based on the evolving context of integration. Unlike in the classic assimilation theory, which assumes a single societal mainstream, many Western European countries no longer reflect this norm (Karimi 2023). In this thesis, high transnational tendencies, coupled with strong feelings of individual integration and generally positive integration scores, demonstrate that integration is not solely reliant on assimilation. It can also be observed in more transnational and diverse environments.

Additionally, the impact of policies and institutions, as suggested by the new assimilation theory, was analyzed. While the country of residence has a minor influence on individuals' subjective feelings of integration, factors such as citizenship rights or transnational behavior are severely affected by the country of residence. Although not all these factors can be directly linked to national policies, citizenship laws notably impact several important values derived from the data, including respondents' children's citizenship and their ability to vote. Transnational tendencies are heavily influenced by the country's proximity to Czechia but can also be attributed to EU-wide policies promoting free travel. Ultimately, citizenship is strongly influenced by the country of residence, as respondents from the selected EU-states show lower political integration, as citizenship is much less of an issue for EU citizens.

Furthermore, the analysis examined how the integration process of Czech compatriots in Germany compares to that of Czech compatriots in other selected countries. As mentioned at the beginning of the conclusion, Czech compatriots integrate well into German society. This stands in no contrast to their strong transnational tendencies, which tend to diminish over time with increased integration. While the decrease of transnationalism over time is similar as in other countries, higher education levels play a much more significant role for increased transnational tendencies for respondents from Germany. Also, in Germany, respondents in relationships exhibit lower levels of transnational behavior, a trend not observed in the other countries.

The structural integration of respondents is not significantly affected by any socio-economic variables across all countries, presenting generally high values overall.

For cultural integration, the length of stay has a strong positive impact on Czech compatriots in Germany, while no significant impact is seen in all other countries, showing that the Czech respondents from Germany gradually speak more German at home and with friends.

Only increasing length of stay significantly impacts political integration in Germany, whereas higher education levels increase political integration in the selected EU countries as well as in all data and males tend to have lower political integration values in the US.

Civic integration is significantly influenced by the length of stay in both Germany and the US, while higher education levels further increase civic integration in the selected EU countries and for all involved countries.

For social integration, gender plays a critical role as male respondents display much lower values across all countries. Although the length of stay is relevant in all countries, its impact is minimal. In the US, family status is significant for social integration, as respondents in a relationship exhibit much higher integration values. Also, higher education levels slightly improve social integration in the case of all respondents.

Overall, integration values are primarily affected by the length of stay in Germany and the other examined countries. Education level also influences certain aspects of the integration process, along with respondents' gender and relationship status.

Lastly, on the basis of the literature review, the behavior of Czech diaspora is more similar to their Polish counterparts, contrary to the Turkish diaspora. This is probably due to their cultural, historical and geographical proximity. Particularly, labor qualifications and educational status differ strongly, as Czech and Polish compatriots, especially in the following generations, are much better integrated structurally and work in higher qualification jobs (Heath 2021). This is reflected by the importance of education and its high value among emigrants from the two

European countries (MAIS 2016). Furthermore, Czech and Polish compatriots maintain closer social contacts with Germans, and their cultural proximity to Germany facilitates their seamless integration, particularly in the second or later generations (Heath 2021, Babka von Gostomski 2016). Most Czech respondents in the survey report feeling strongly integrated into German society, although they remain more closely connected to Czechia. In terms of political integration, however, Czech and Polish compatriots exhibit low levels of integration (Heath 2021), as their EU citizenship diminishes the need for citizenship acquisition. Overall, respondents from both EU countries can be classified as integrated according to Berry's (2006) definition, as they feel a sense of belonging, have contact with the majority group, and are generally integrated into society.

In contrast, many descendants of Turkish immigrants primarily engage in blue-collar jobs or entrepreneurship, and more likely to underachieve in the education sector compared to the native population average (Lodigiani 2018). Also, according to Sauer (2005) nearly half of Turkish respondents actively differentiate themselves from being German and only 12 percent feel integrated. This all leads to a Turkish minority which remains more segregated.

In conclusion, this thesis enhances the understanding of how Czech compatriots integrate into Germany and other selected foreign countries. It also builds upon the research conducted by Janská et al. (2024b) by supporting their assertion that transnational characteristics are more pronounced at closer geographical distances, although these factors do not influence the respondents' integration. Additionally, this work contributes valuable insights to the project funded by GAČR, further advancing this specific area of research.

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