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Title

Europe as unlikely immigrant destination : location choice for internationally mobile students in India / Metka Hercog and Mindel van de Laar

Publication year

2016

Source/Footnote

In: European journal of higher education. - 6 (2016) 4, S. 356 - 371

Inventory number

44828

Keywords

Ausland : Europa : Auslandsbeziehungen ; Ausland : Indien : Auslandsbeziehungen ; Austausch von Wissenschaftlern und Studenten ; Mobilität ; Internationalität

Abstract

This paper examines how country-specific factors in receiving countries influence a highly skilled migrant's choice between several possible locations. While continental European countries recognize that attracting migrants is a key component of their economic strategies, it is unclear to what extent these immigration policies result in European countries performing better in the global competition for the skilled. Surveys of prospective migrants in India show that while European countries appear to be relatively attractive for educational purposes, European countries are not perceived as favourably for long-term stays. Relative to migrants selecting traditional immigration countries, migrants selecting Europe as a destination typically have more skills and increased access to resources, such as existing networks abroad, higher educational level or better language skills. With fewer long-term migration initiatives to Europe, immigration policies and destination country-specific factors, opportunities to obtain citizenship and amenities of local environment become less relevant. European

12.7.2025

governments put considerable effort in integrating student migration as a part of a wider immigration strategy; however, this strategy is likely to prove ineffective if 'probationary migrants' do not view European countries as realistic work destinations after graduation..(HRK / Abstract übernommen)