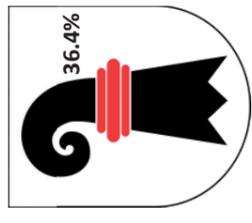




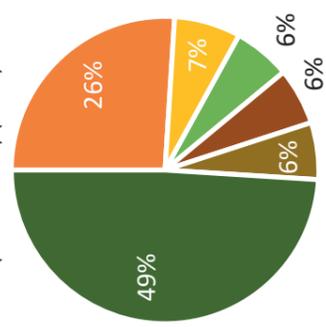
# MIGRANTEN- & MIGRANTINNENSSESSION 2019



Our group teamed up with the Basler Organization called 'Mitsimme', which was founded in 2015. The aim of the organization is, among others, to promote the **political participation of migrants** in Swiss politics, by **including them in the political decision-making process** in Basel-Stadt. This is implemented by providing people who don't have Swiss citizenship with an education of how the political system in Switzerland works. In order to attract attention to the concerns and political needs of the rather prominent migrant population in Basel-Stadt, the organization launched the first 'Migranten- and Migrantinnensession' in 2018, which is a platform to provide them with a political voice.



Percentage of migrant\* (Basel-Stadt) (2018)



Distribution of migrants\* by country of origin (2018)

- Its main goals are :
- "Promoting the participation of migrants in Swiss politics"
  - Promoting individual and social responsibility
  - Political education of/with migrants
  - Public relations" (Mitsimme)

\* People that don't have the Swiss citizenship but have their official residence in Basel-Stadt

## MIGRANTEN- & MIGRANTINNENSSESSION

- Working groups develop political claims on different topics and in the form of different political instruments.
- Around 170 registrations for the session; up to 50 people who could participate in the voting process as migrants.
- Migrants do have a voice and the possibility to shape politics and community.

Themes discussed during the session:

1. Car insurance: insurer should no longer calculate the amount of the premium based on nationality as a factor.
2. For the different health strategies in Basel Stadt there should be formulated an overarching strategy
3. Swiss citizen moving from other language regions to Basel Stadt should get vouchers for language courses (German/ Swiss German).
4. Consulting services focusing on mental health for migrant men in Basel Stadt should be reinforced.
5. The possibility for political participation for all residents in Basel Stadt should be extended through a new political instrument called "Volksanregung".



Many migrants are faced with specific vulnerabilities and complex disadvantages, such as difficulties in accessing labour markets or barriers for political participation and decision-making processes. Inclusion of marginalized groups is necessary for finding sustainable and just solutions. See targets 10.2, 10.3 & 10.7.



For this initiative, the community level is of central importance and allows for a re-thinking of citizenship unrelated to national borders, as almost 40% of the population is currently excluded from political decision-making processes. These decisions affect the everyday lives and interactions of all people in the community. See targets 11.1 & 11.3.



Mitsimme is striving towards transparent and accessible institutions that are shaped by and for the people that are affected by them. It addresses the importance of institutional-political participation, inclusion and recognition of all members of society. See targets 16.6 & 16.7.

## EVALUATION

To get an overview of the impact and the participants of the 'Migranten- and Migrantinnensession' our group designed an evaluation form for 'mitsimme'. The main aim was to get information of how to improve the session in the future by finding out who is attending the session, how the themes discussed during the session is received by the participants and by the politicians and how to make the whole event and it's planning process more successful. The results of the evaluation are still pending.

WHAT WE DID?	
Beginning of October	Several meetings with the project coordinator discussing how we can participate
October	Working on evaluation
17.10.2019	Last meeting of the workgroups, help the workgroups by attending their talks, taking notes and giving inputs
24.10.2019	Attending the rehearsals of all groups
29.10.2019	Meeting about the evaluation sheet
04.11.2019	Finish the evaluation sheet
09.11.2019	Attending the "Migranten- & Migrantinnensession" (writing protocols of the discussions, counting votes)
04.12.2019	Debriefing with the project coordinator
December	Evaluation of the "Migranten- & Migrantinnensession"

### MIGRANTS

What does being a "migrant" represent in Basel-Stadt? The cantonal institutions see migrants as people that don't have the Swiss citizenship. But, that definition includes people that were born and lived all their lives in Basel. Are they really "migrants" when they have never lived elsewhere?

### INTEGRATION

How can someone integrate, be integrated? This question is important when talking about voting right. Voting is an important part of political and social participation. Does the limitation of voting rights not demonstrate an unwillingness to integrate "migrants"?

### CITIZENSHIP

With citizenship comes the right to have a voice on the political arena. But does voting rights have to come with citizenship? To obtain Swiss citizenship can be a lengthy process. How can someone who has been living in a country for some time, or all their lives, not have the right to express their opinions about policies that will impact them?

<https://mitsimme.ch/>  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>  
<https://www.unibas.ch/impuls>  
<https://www.statistik.bs.ch/haeufig-gefragt/einwohner/zu-wegzuege.html>