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Social values as a pull factor for migration

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

The reasons immigrants have for migrating out of their country of origin and into the country of destination are multifaceted, and important for integration processes after arrival. However, surveys of immigrants rarely contain more information than a few categories based on formal ground for settlement. We use a novel way to measure individual reasons for migration on a large sample of newly arrived immigrants in Sweden. Respondents did not only indicate their formal ground for settlement, but they also answered why they specifically choose to immigrate to Sweden compared with another Western country. Among the reasons for choosing the country was the option that Swedish social values are aligned with their own. In this study, we show that there is a substantial portion of migrants who are pulled to Sweden based on the perceived similarity of values across all formal grounds for settlement and including among so-called traditional push migrants. Individuals who migrated to Sweden for this reason also displayed more liberal social values, and hence a stronger agreement between their own values and the very liberal Swedish society, regardless of how liberal their country of origin is. We conclude that social values can act as a pull factor for migration, affecting both migrant selection and integration.

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion