Zentrale Ergebnisse der OECD-Studien zur Arbeitsmarktintegration von Zuwanderern und deren Kindern

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Over the past four years, the OECD has conducted a series of in-depth country reviews on the labour market integration of immigrants and their children, nine of which have been published thus far in the OECD’s “Jobs for Immigrants” series. In the Colloquium, the key findings from these studies and from related work in the OECD’s International Migration Division will be presented and discussed.

One key result of the reviews has been that the observed differences in labour market outcomes between immigrants and the native-born are only to a small part attributable to the fact that immigrants tend to be less qualified on average. The employment record vis-à-vis the native-born with a similar education level is often quite favourable for low-skilled migrants. But a particular challenge associated with low-skilled migration is the integration of their children, who are now entering the labour markets in many OECD countries in larger numbers. Indeed, it is perhaps not very surprising that immigrants who have arrived as adults have some difficulties integrating into the labour market. They will always retain something of their countries of origin that may hamper their employment prospects. The surprise is rather that there continue to be difficulties for the children of immigrants born and educated in the host country, even when they have good qualifications.

The reviews have illustrated the diversity of the labour market situation of immigrants and their children, and the difficulty in disentangling the precise reasons for their often rather unfavourable labour market performance. Because of the many factors which intervene in the labour market integration process, there is also no single measure that is, by itself, the key for its success. Nevertheless, it is possible to point to some instruments that have demonstrably beneficial effects on the outcomes of immigrants and their children.