

Infos migrations

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Report

ELIPA 2013 : the first results

DSED

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ELIPA 2013 : the first results

After three years in France, most of the new migrants have overcome "migration shock" : the employment rate in 2013 is higher than it was before migration, even for the women. However, nearly one third of the women are homemakers. The prime reason for their being out of the labour force is family responsibilities. The majority of these women intend to work in the short or medium term. Whereas one in four of the women had difficulty with French in 2010, this proportion fell to one in six in 2013 (and one in ten for the men). The housing situation is becoming "normal" : in 2013, less than one in five is in short-term housing or housed by others, as opposed to nearly one in three in 2010.

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1. The new migrants most frequently come to France for family reasons

Most of the new migrants (72 %) were granted a residence permit on the grounds of family migration (**Table 1**). The other two main administrative reasons are the granting of refugee status (13 %) or economic migration (9 %). The majority of the new migrants (52 %) are women. The men and the women come to France for different reasons. [2] A higher proportion of women comes in the context of family migration and in fact, the majority of men also comes for the same reason. Women are less frequently granted a residence permit for economic migration (3 % of the women receive residence permits for this reason, as opposed to 15 % of the men). To a lesser degree, fewer women than men are granted refugee status (10 % as against 15 %).

Table 1: Reason for being granted a residence permit in 2010, by gender (%)

| | Men | Women | All |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Economic migration | 15 | 3 | 9 |
| Family migration | 62 | 81 | 72 |
| <i>Family reunification</i> | 3 | 14 | 9 |
| <i>Family member of a French national</i> | 44 | 53 | 49 |
| <i>Family and personal relationships</i> | 15 | 14 | 14 |
| Refugees | 15 | 10 | 13 |
| Other | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source : Enquête Elipa, 1^{re} vague (2010), DGEF-DSED

Young people form a large part of the population of new migrants (**Table 2**) : more than four in ten are between the ages of 18 and 29. The women are younger than the men: more than 50 % of the women are under 30 years old as against 36 % of the men. Generally speaking, the women arrived in France at an age younger than the men: over half of them were between the ages of 18 and 29.

Even though the new migrants received their first residence permit in the same year, they did not arrive in France at the same time, for reasons that are notably due to administrative procedures. While 48 % had entered France in the two years before the study, 10 % had been in France for at least ten years. For the women, administrative procedures are quicker, since many of them come in the context of family migration. At the time of the survey, the average duration of stay in France was 2.8 years for the women, compared to 4.9 years for the men.

The new migrants came mainly from Africa : 36 % are from the Maghreb and 25 % from sub-Saharan Africa. The breakdown by gender shows few differences except that slightly more men come from sub-Saharan Africa.

Table 2: Socio-demographic characteristics of new migrants in 2010, by gender (%)

| | All | Men | Women |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| Age in 2010 | | | |
| 18 to 29 | 44 | 36 | 52 |
| 30 to 39 | 38 | 45 | 31 |
| 40 to 49 | 13 | 15 | 12 |
| 50 or more | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Age on arrival in France | | | |
| 0 to 17 | 9 | 10 | 8 |
| 18 to 29 | 55 | 53 | 57 |
| 30 to 39 | 26 | 28 | 24 |
| 40 to 49 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 50 or more | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Duration of stay in France in 2010 | | | |
| Less than 2 years | 48 | 37 | 58 |
| From 2 to 4 | 16 | 17 | 16 |
| From 5 to 9 | 25 | 32 | 19 |
| 10 years or more | 10 | 15 | 7 |
| Nationality | | | |
| Maghreb | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 25 | 27 | 22 |
| Other areas in Africa | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Asia | 20 | 19 | 20 |
| Europe (excluding France) and CIS | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| America and Oceania | 6 | 5 | 6 |

Source: Elipa survey, 1st wave (2010), DGEF-DSED

Insert : ELIPA

The Longitudinal Survey on the Integration of First-Time Arrivals (ELIPA) is being carried out in France on the migrants who have a residence permit of at least one year and want to settle permanently in the country [1]. The subjects interviewed are migrants from "third countries" - *i.e.* from outside the EEA (European Economic Area) and Switzerland - aged 18 or over, who were granted a residence permit at the end of 2009.

This survey aims to reveal the pathways of new migrants during their first years in France in four areas: their bureaucratic itinerary, insertion into the labour force, learning French and living conditions (accommodation, social relations ...). The « new migrants » were interviewed three times for the survey: in spring 2010, a few months after they were granted a residence permit (6,107 persons), then in spring 2011 (4,756 persons) and lastly in spring 2013 (3,573 persons).

The people interviewed are representative of the 97,736 migrants who signed a Reception and Integration Contract in 2009. France issued a total of 191,323 first residence permits that year. The interviewees are adult third-country nationals. The shortfall is not due to a discrepancy between people and residence permits. It is to be explained by the categories of people excluded from the scope of the survey :

- students, temporary workers and trainees that are counted as temporary migrants ;
- employees on assignment, holders of residence permits with endorsements for « skills and talents », « research » or « business », high-level executives and the family members accompanying them ;
- holders of a permit endorsed as « visitor », « arts and culture professional », veterans and persons from third countries entering France for medical treatments.

2. Socio-demographic characteristics differ according to the reason for the residence permit

Whatever the reason for the issue of their residence permit, more than half of the new migrants arrived in France before the age of 30. However, the age at which they received the permit varies widely (**Table 3**). Thus most family migrants and refugees are under 30 when they receive their first residence permit, while economic migrants are older - half of them are between 30 and 39 years old.

This time-lapse is due to the duration of the bureaucratic procedures that differs according to the reason for the residence permit. Family migrants are the ones that have the quickest procedures. 60 % of them had been in France for less than two years. At the other end of the scale, the economic migrants had been in France for a long time : only 9 % had been in France for less than two years and 81 % had been here for at least five years. In the middle, one in two refugees had been in France for between two and four years.

The origins also differ widely according to the reason why a residence permit was issued. Family migrants more often come from the Maghreb countries (46 %), economic migrants from sub-Saharan Africa (51 %) and refugees from Asia (44 %).

Table 3: Socio-demographic characteristics of the new migrants in 2010 by reason for residence permit (%)

| | Economic mi- gration | Family migra- tion | Refugees |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Gender | | | |
| Men | 80 | 41 | 58 |
| Women | 20 | 59 | 42 |
| Age in 2010 | | | |
| 18 to 29 | 22 | 46 | 46 |
| 30 to 39 | 50 | 37 | 34 |
| 40 to 49 | 21 | 12 | 12 |
| 50 or more | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| Age on arrival in France | | | |
| 0 to 17 | 3 | 6 | 13 |
| 18 to 29 | 65 | 57 | 48 |
| 30 to 39 | 24 | 27 | 24 |
| 40 to 49 | 6 | 7 | 10 |
| 50 or more | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Duration of stay in France in 2010 | | | |
| Less than 2 years | 9 | 60 | 30 |
| From 2 to 4 | 10 | 12 | 51 |
| From 5 to 9 | 59 | 22 | 16 |
| 10 years or more | 22 | 7 | 4 |
| Nationality | | | |
| Maghreb | 20 | 46 | 1 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 51 | 21 | 23 |
| Other areas in Africa | 5 | 6 | 14 |
| Asia | 12 | 16 | 44 |
| Europe (excluding France) and CIS | 5 | 5 | 14 |
| America and Oceania | 7 | 6 | 3 |

Source: Elipa survey, 1st wave (2010), DGEF-DSED

3. Migration, a clear break in economic activity

Between their arrival in France and 2010, the labour force participation rate for the new migrants rose sharply, from 57 % to 69 % (Table 4). One year later, in 2011, the labour force participation rate is relatively stable (71 %). Then it goes up again over the next two years, rising to 77 % in 2013.

The rate of insertion in the labour market differs according to gender. Between their migration and 2010, the men's labour force participation rate rose considerably, from 67 % to 88 %. The new members of the labour force are mainly men who were still students in their country of origin and started working after migration. The labour force participation rate goes up and the unemployment rate rises sharply at the same time (from 6 % to 24 %).

For the women, the break in their economic activity shows a different picture. The labour force participation rate between migration and 2010 also rose, but at a slower pace (from 47 % to 51 %). However, this slight increase in the women's economic activity actually hides shifts between activity and inactivity following migration. Less than two in ten of the new female migrants become inactive (above all homemakers) following migration. On the other hand, more than two in ten change from being inactive (especially students, but also homemakers) to become active in the labour force. At the same time, the women's labour force participation rate slumps, losing 17 points (from 43 % to 26 %) and the unemployment rate rises significantly (from 10 % to 48 %).

Table 4: Changes in the new migrants' labour force participation rate and unemployment rate, by gender (%)

| | All | Men | Women |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Activity rate | | | |
| Before migration | 57 | 67 | 47 |
| 2010 | 69 | 88 | 51 |
| 2011 | 71 | 90 | 52 |
| 2013 | 77 | 94 | 62 |
| Employment rate | | | |
| Before migration | 52 | 63 | 43 |
| 2010 | 46 | 67 | 26 |
| 2011 | 54 | 74 | 35 |
| 2013 | 61 | 80 | 44 |
| Unemployment rate | | | |
| Before migration | 8 | 6 | 10 |
| 2010 | 33 | 24 | 48 |
| 2011 | 24 | 18 | 34 |
| 2013 | 21 | 15 | 29 |

Source: Elipa survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2013), DGFF-DSED

The first years of life in France are decisive for the economic activity of new migrants. For both genders, the unemployment rate falls sharply between 2010 and 2013, while the labour force participation rate rises. What is more, the women rejoin the labour force after some years of inactivity. The labour force participation rate stays steady between 2010 and 2011, and then it rises from 52 % to 62 % in just two years from 2011 to 2013. This is explained by two factors - homemakers going back to work and female students entering the labour force.

These are markers of the "economic integration" of new migrants. Nevertheless, the new migrants' insertion into the labour force is lower than the levels observed for French nationals. The Paths and Origins survey (2008) enables a comparison of data on all immigrants with data on the native born population. Native born men participate in the labour market at the rate of 84 %, which is lower than the labour market participation rate for new male migrants. However the male migrants' unemployment rate is much higher. For comparison, in 2008, the unemployment rate of native born men was 8 % [3].

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The labour force participation rate for the new female migrants is around 60 % some years after being granted a residence permit as against 79 % for the women not affected by migration. Native-born women also have a lower unemployment rate, around 11 %.

4. Almost one in three of the new female migrants is a homemaker

The women participate less in the labour market because a large proportion of them are homemakers. In 2010, a few months after obtaining their first residence permit, 33 % of the new female migrants are homemakers (**Table 5**) One year later, this proportion is stable (34 %). By 2013 there is a slight reduction : 30 % are homemakers.

Longer settled immigrant women are less often homemakers (23 %) than the new female migrants. This proportion is only 8 % for women not affected by migration.

Table 5: Percentages of women who are homemakers, comparing immigrants and non-immigrants

| Sources | Percentage of homemakers |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Paths and Origins Survey 2008 | 8 |
| Immigrants | 8 |
| Native born | 23 |
| Elipa Survey | |
| 2010 | 33 |
| 2011 | 34 |
| 2013 | 30 |

Sources: Elipa Survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2013), DGEF-DSED; Paths and Origins Survey, 2008, Ined-Insee

The high rate of inactivity for new female migrants is strictly linked to the short duration of their stay in France. According to the Paths and Origins survey, homemakers represent 34 % of female migrants who arrived in France less than 5 years before¹, 28 % of female migrants who had been in France for between 5 and 9 years and around 20 % of the women who had lived in France for at least 10 years. Access to activity and employment increases over time for women who have been inactive since their arrival in France, which is a distinctive characteristic for the new migrants interviewed during the Elipa survey. Nonetheless, this return to the job market takes place on a smaller scale and more slowly, compared to the men **[4]**. In addition, the men's insertion into the labour force is fairly homogeneous, regardless of their educational attainment. As regards women, the lower level of educational attainment they have, the more difficult their insertion into the labour force is **[5]**.

Given the same duration of stay in France, the female migrants' integration pathway has two more distinguishing factors: their age on arrival in France and the reason for their migration **[6]**. Economic migration is more frequent for the men, so new migrants who came to France in this context are practically all economically active. In contrast, those who came for family reasons are less often economically active. In fact, as already mentioned, the men and the women do not come for the same reasons. In 2010, if the women had had the same pattern as the men as regards their reason for coming to France, 56 % of the women should have been economically active; the real figures gave 51 %. Thus, if the breakdown by reason for migration is unfavourable for the women's participation in the labour market, this only explains one part of the women's difficulties of entering the labour market.

If we continue using the Paths and Origins survey as a basis, migrants' pathways towards economic activity differ according to their age of arrival in France **[3]**. A migrant who arrives in France as a child and is educated in France does not necessarily have the same pathway as a migrant who arrives as an adult. By focusing on people who have finished their studies and are at least 25 years old, it is possible to compare their situations as regards economic activity by studying their age of arrival in France. It is evident that this age is crucial for the career paths of female migrants in France, whereas it is of little significance for the men.

1 : These are close to the values observed for the new female migrants interviewed in the Elipa survey (table 4).

2 : That is to say, the same proportion of people given residence permits for economic migration, refugee status, family migrant (with exact reason for the family migration, such as family reunification, spouse of a French national ...) and other reasons.

Regardless of their age on arrival, about 80 % of the men are in the labour market. In contrast, for the women, the situation changes considerably. As regards the women who were under 10 when they arrived in France, 82 % are active on the labour market. If they were between 10 and 14 years old on arrival in France, 79 % are active. For the women who arrived in France at the age of 15 and over, the benefit seems to disappear; approximately 70 % of the female migrants are economically active. In the three age groups mentioned, the proportion of homemakers is 12 %, 19 % and 26 % respectively. Thus the younger a woman is on arrival in France, the better her chance to enter the labour market. Practically all (95 %) of the women interviewed in the Elipa survey arrived in France at the age of 15 or over. On the basis of these characteristics, they have fewer chances of entering the labour market.

For all women, fertility and entry into the labour force interact with each other. According to the 2008 annual census survey of France, the fertility rate was 2.51 children per woman born outside France. While the female migrants have a higher fertility rate than that of women as a whole, the weight of this fertility rate in the total period fertility rate remains limited. According to the same source, the fertility rate for all women in France was 1.88 children. For native-born women this rate was 1.80 children. To have a strong impact, immigrant mothers would both have to represent a high proportion of all mothers and also have a really high fertility rate [8].

Immigration and age on arrival in France also have a strong influence upon the fertility of female migrants [9,10]. The high fertility rate observed on their arrival in France could explain the fact that some of them interrupt their economic activity for a short period. Laurent Toulemon states that the women who arrived in France before the age of 13 have a fertility rate only slightly higher than that of women born in Mainland France. If they arrive at about 25 or 30 years old - which is the case for almost three in ten of the new female migrants - they have a higher fertility rate with a specific time-line. On arrival in France, these women had, on average, fewer children than native-born women of the same age. On the other hand, the years after arrival in France are marked by a very high fertility rate. This is explained by the fact that for some women migrate to join their partner and wait until after migration to have children. Also, it is possible that the conditions of migration select the women that have fewer children. After this period of high fertility, over the years, the female migrants' fertility rate gradually becomes closer to that of native-born women.

In addition, the fertility rate is also linked to the marital situation at the time of their migration [11]. Immigrants that arrived in France with no children had an average of 2.3 children at the age of 45, regardless of whether or not they had been a member of a couple at the time of migration. Those who were already a member of a couple with children at the time of migration had an average of 3.6 children at the age of 45.

5. Homemaker, a temporary status?

In 2013, more than two in ten homemakers said they were looking for a job. Thirteen per cent of the homemakers had been looking for work for less than a year and 9 % had been job-hunting for a year or longer.

Of the women who were not job-hunting at the time of the interview :

- 64 % said they were not available to work for family reasons,
- 41 % said they did not want to work for the time being,
- 35 % were not job-hunting because no child-care services were available or those available were considered too expensive.

Likewise, 21 % of the homemakers had already worked since their arrival in France. The main reason why they were out of work was that their fixed-term contract (or internship or assignment) had come to an end.

Lastly, while the majority of the homemakers said that they were satisfied staying at home (61 %), a significant proportion (39 %) said that they were dissatisfied with their situation. The vast majority of the women who were homemakers in 2013 had a work-related project : 68 % of them intended to find a job (or become self-employed) in the next three years. The same proportion is to be found among the 41 % of the homemakers who said (in 2013) that they did not want to work for the time being.

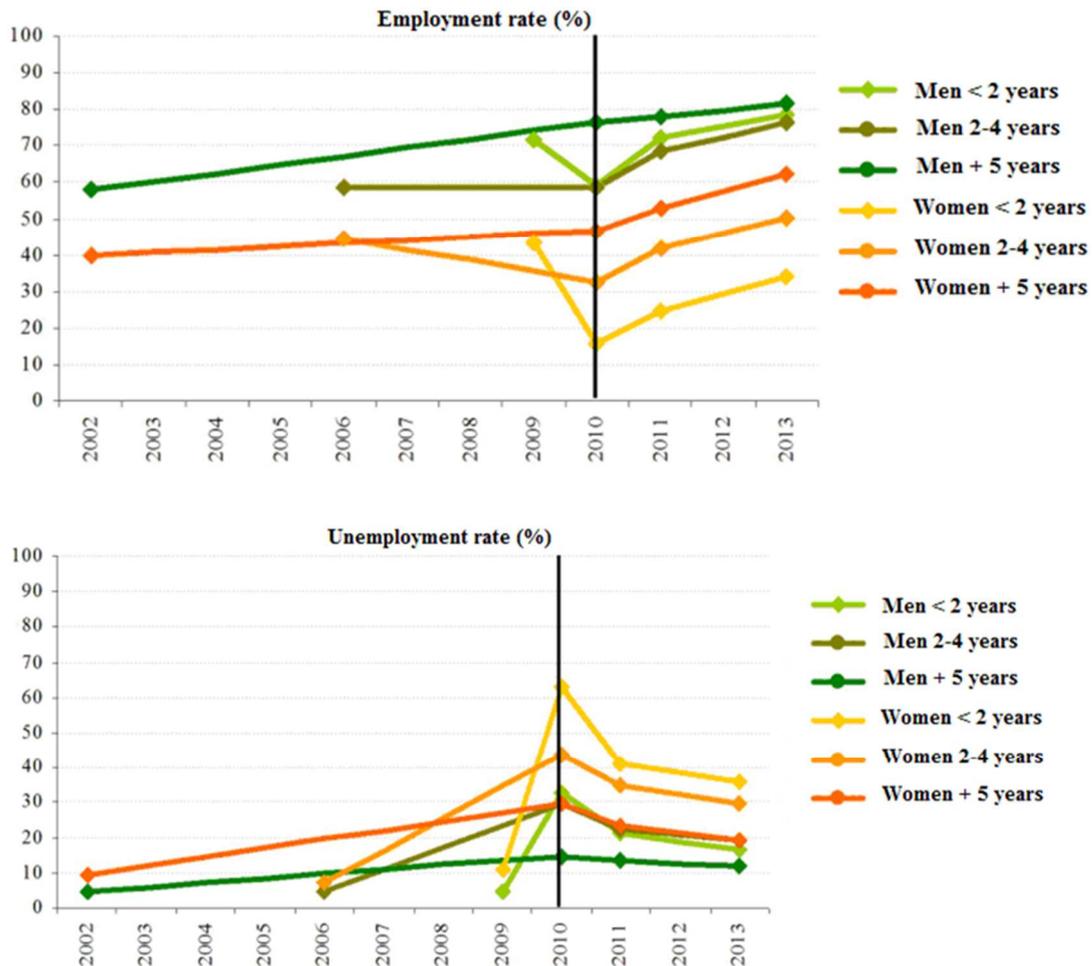
6. Integration into the labour force is linked to the duration of stay in France

The migrants' situation as regards economic activity is closely related to the number of years they have spent in France [12]. The clear break in their presence on the labour market is more visible when the new migrants, interviewed in 2010 for the Elipa survey, had been in France for a short period, less than two years (Figure 1). This break appears more abrupt for the women than for the men. After migration, there is a drop in the 2010 labour force participation rate of the women who had been in France for less than two years: it falls from 43 % to 16 % in the space of one year. Almost two in ten of the women (17 %) who had been in France for less than two years left the labour force and became economically inactive. (Fifteen per cent left work to stay at home.) It should be added that unemployment is very high on arrival in France, for both the women who had worked in their country of origin and for those who had been economically inactive in their country of origin. As regards the women who had been in France for more than two years, the break is not as clear, due to the number of years spent in France.

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In addition, while this development is more visible for the women who had been in France for less than two years, it can be observed for all durations of stay and for both genders: the longer migrants stay in France the more the unemployment rate goes down and the labour force participation rate goes up.

Figure 1: Changes in the new migrants' labour force participation and unemployment rates, by gender and duration of stay in France as of 2010



Source: Elipa survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2012), DGEF, DSED

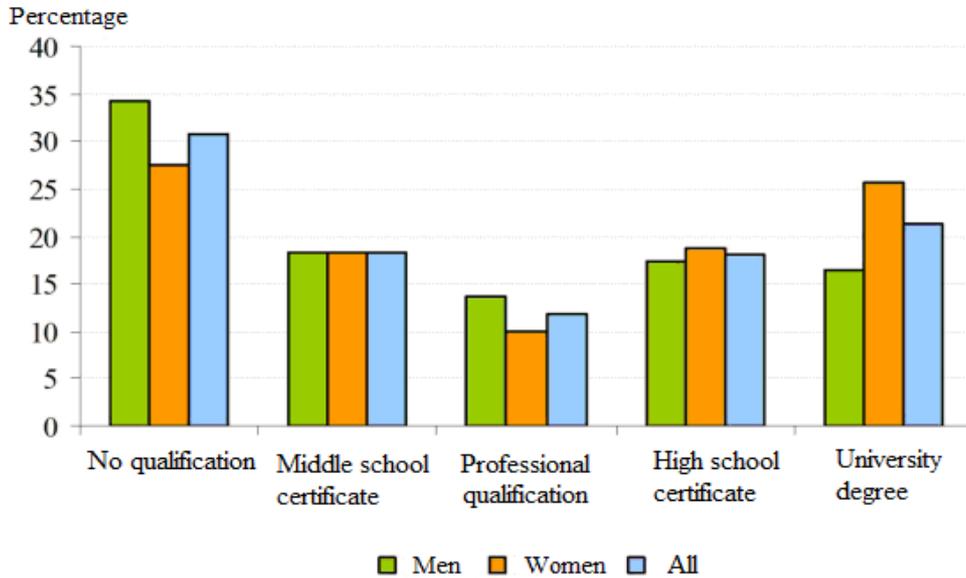
7. The women are more often educated

New migrants are not well educated. More than three out of ten have no qualification at all. At the other end of the scale, more than two out of ten have a university degree. A higher proportion of new migrants have no qualifications compared to native born people (only 9 % of the latter are not qualified). While the proportion of new migrants that are university educated is significant, it is lower than that of native born people (34 % of them are university educated) [13,14]. In fact, the scope of the Elipa survey excludes immigrants with a student's residence permit and thus seriously underestimates the proportion of highly qualified people in France.

The breakdown varies according to the gender (Figure 2). Of the new migrants fewer women than men have no qualifications (28 % of the women, 34 % of the men). The women also more often have a higher level of qualification : 26 % of the women have university degrees against 17 % of the men.

The women's advantages in terms of education are not reflected by higher participation in the labour market. With the same qualification, the women systematically have a lower share of the work market: their employment rate is always lower than that of the men (Figure 3) and their unemployment rate is systematically higher (Figure 4). The women most affected by unemployment or less often employed make up a heterogeneous population comprising women without qualifications and also university educated women. Inversely, those with an intermediate qualification seem to be better integrated in the labour market. In the long term, however, a university qualification is a strong facilitating factor for insertion.

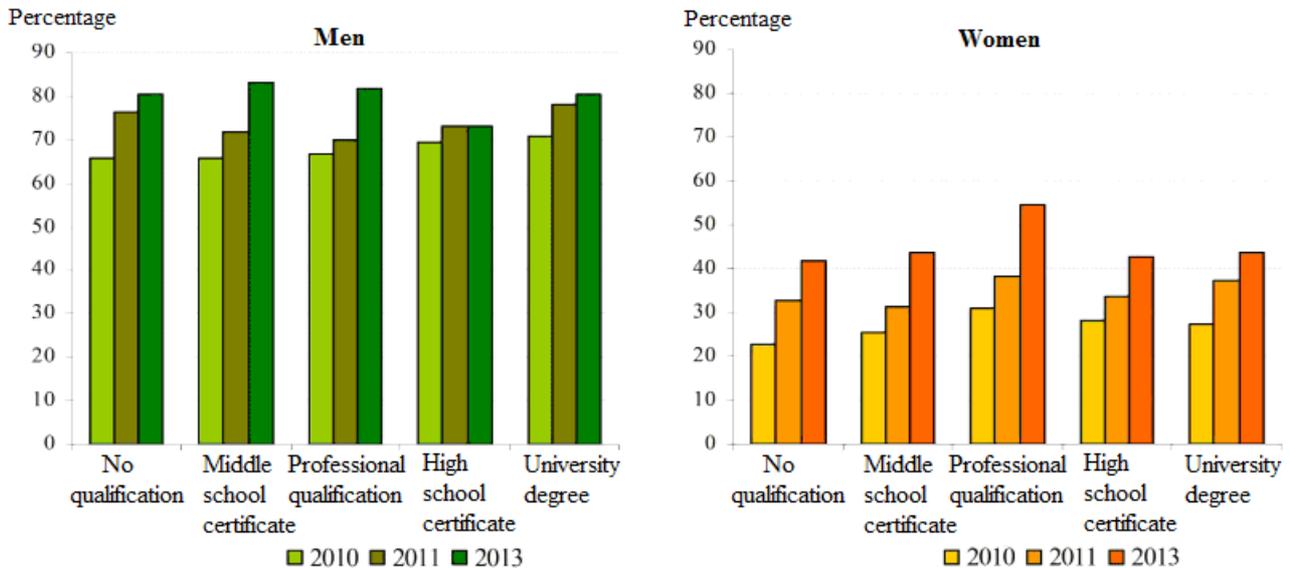
Figure 2: Highest level of qualification obtained by the new migrants, by gender



Source: Elipa survey, 1st wave (2010); DGEF-DSED

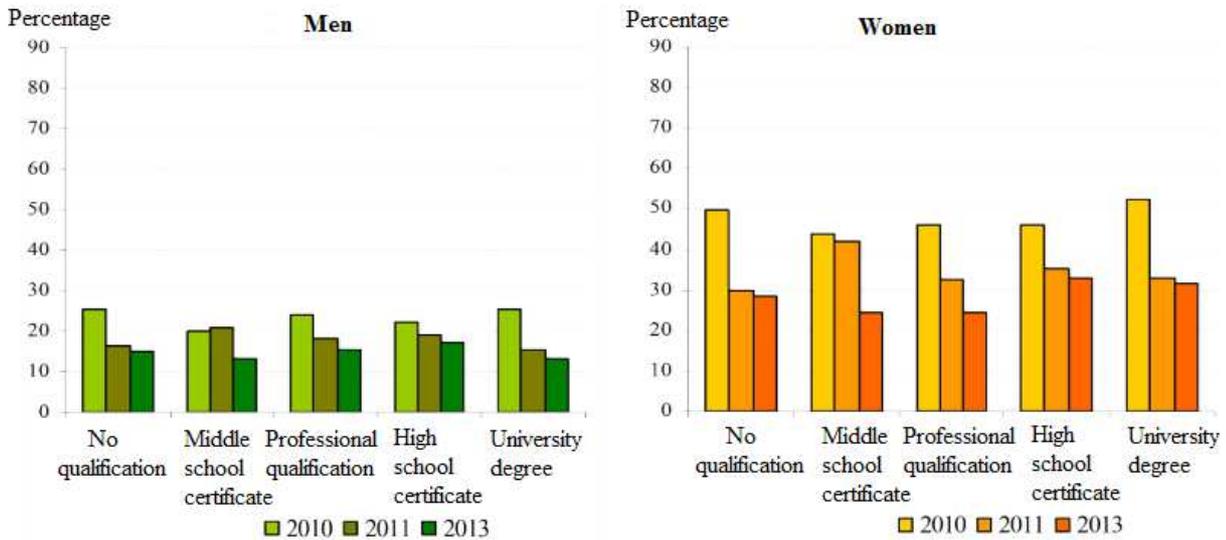
The duration of stay in France also plays a major role. For every level of qualification, the trends observed between 2010 and 2013 are a lowering of the unemployment rate and a rise in the employment rate. These trends can be observed for both genders. This does not enable the women to reach the levels observed for the men, even with the same qualification.

Figure 3: Changes in the new migrants' employment rates, by qualification



Source: Elipa Survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2013), DGEF DSED

Figure 4: Changes in the new migrants' unemployment rates, by qualification

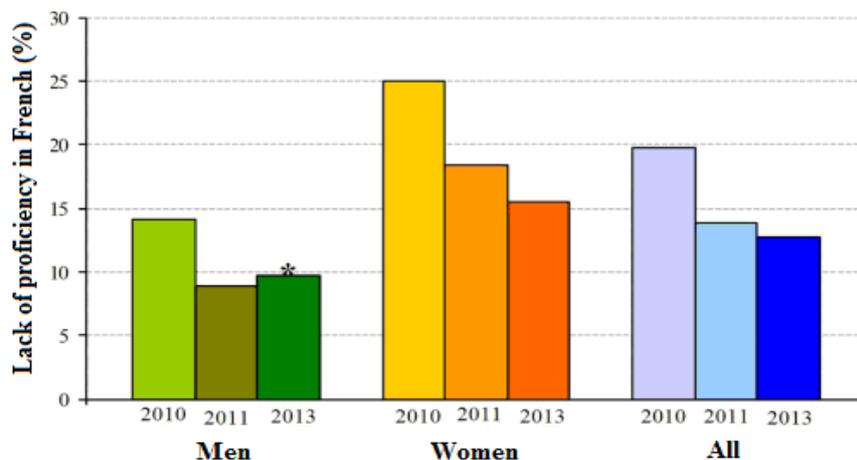


Source: Elipa survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2013), DGFF-DSED

8. The women are less proficient in French

Proficiency in French is an essential factor for the integration of the new migrants in France. Each of the three waves of the Elipa survey included the same four questions of self-assessment of the interviewee's proficiency in oral and written French. The new migrants were asked to make a general assessment of their oral French. They were also asked to evaluate their performance in specific everyday situations, such as their ability to telephone to make an appointment or to obtain information and to ask for directions. To assess proficiency in writing, the questions related to writing a letter in French or filling in an administrative document. A marker for proficiency in French was thus constructed from these four answers [15]. Looking at the data from the three waves enables us to track the changes. This proficiency marker has some advantages. It is simple and allows for comparison with other studies. Besides being simple, it relies on interviewees assessing themselves: this method does have a number of drawbacks [16]. The main drawback is that it relies on what people feel. In fact, according to their experience and their everyday needs, two interviewees with effectively the same level of French may give different answers. What is more, the women tend to underestimate their level more often than the men.

Figure 5: Changes in the new migrants' lack of proficiency in French, 2010-2013, by gender



* 2011-2013 differences are not significant

Source: Elipa survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2013), DGFF-DSED

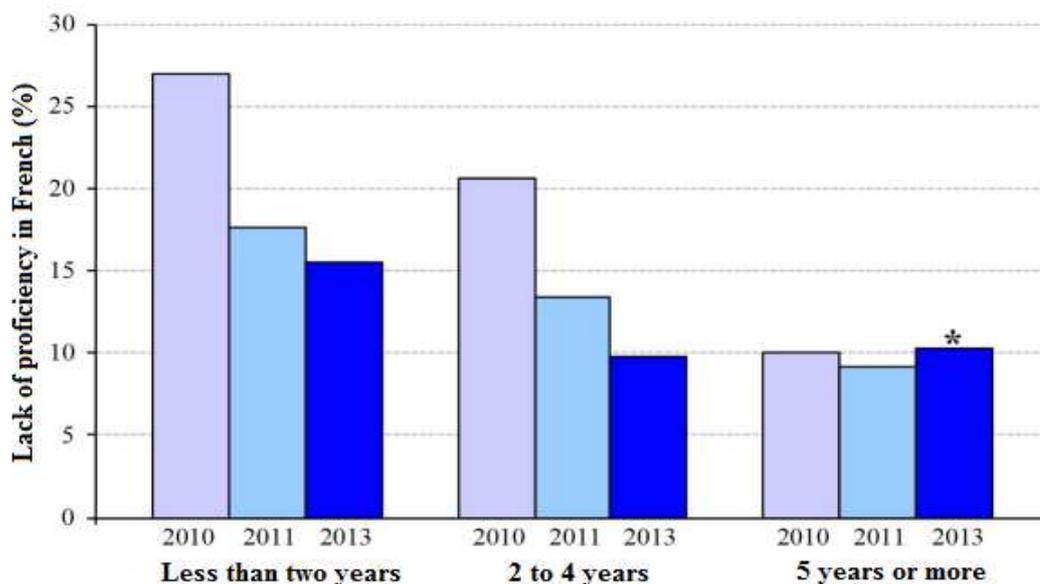
Within the population of new migrants, mastery of French improved significantly during the first years of life in France. In 2010, 20 % of the new migrants were not proficient in French. In 2011 the proportion was 14 % and in 2013 it was 13 % (Figure 5). The women have a lower level of proficiency than the men, but their level is improving faster: 25 % of the women had difficulties in French in 2010, 18 % in 2011 and 15 % in 2013. Furthermore [16], the younger the women, the better their French language skills. By contrast, age has no incidence on the men's proficiency in French.

The level of proficiency in French also varies according to the nationality of origin of the interviewees and, in particular, to any use of French during childhood. The new migrants coming from Asian countries encounter most difficulties, whereas the new migrants from French-speaking countries logically have the best language skills [15,12].

In fact, the duration of stay in France is a key factor influencing proficiency in French. In 2010, 27% of the new migrants who had been in France for less than two years had weak French language skills (Figure 6). For those in France between two and four years the proportion is 21 %. The proportion with weak language skills steadies around 10 % for the migrants who had been in France for at least five years. Between 2011 and 2013, French language skills continue to improve for those present in France for less than five years. After the first five-year period, proficiency in French tends to stabilise over time.

The women's duration of stay in France was shorter than the men's. If the women had been in France for as long as the men, one would observe that the percentage of women with a low proficiency in French would be 22 % instead of 25 %. To sum up, the duration of stay plays a role, but this remains minor (3 percentage points lower): the gap between the women and the men is still large. Thus the duration of stay does not account for the difference in proficiency by gender. For the same duration of stay, the women's language skills are often not as good as the men's.

Figure 6: Changes in the new migrants' difficulties in French in 2010, by duration of stay in France between 2010 and 2013



* 2011-2013 differences are not significant

Source: Elipa survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2013), DGFF-DSED

For both genders, proficiency in French still differs as a function of the reason for their residence permit (Figure 6). Refugees, even though they are the category of people that are least able to express themselves well, are also those whose level of French increases most. Between 2010 and 2013, the proportion of refugees with a low level of proficiency in French fell sharply from 36 % to 22 %.

People who came in the context of family migration also saw a rise in their level of French. The proportion of people with a low level of proficiency in French was 19 % in 2010 and only 11 % in 2013. Nonetheless, within family migration, knowledge of French varies widely according to the detailed reason for migration. In the category of family migrants, the people coming to France for family reunification - that is spouses or children coming to join a third-country national family member already settled in France - are those who are less proficient in French. In 2010, almost four women in ten that came for family reunification had a low level of proficiency in French.

This can be explained in several ways:

few of these people spoke French with their parents during their childhood;

by definition, the fact that the family member they are joining in France is a third-country national (in contrast with the reason « family member of a French national ») means that a far higher proportion of these people (40 %) speak a language other than French with their spouse and/or children. In fact, only 10 % of family members of French nationals speak a language other than French in the family and for « family and personal relationships » migrants the proportion is 26 %.

Lastly, there is a strong link between language skills and position in the labour market. In 2010, those who had a low level of proficiency in French were 14 % of people in jobs, 15 % of people out of work, 14 % of students and 40 % of those not active in the labour market (excluding students). The link is the same for the years 2011 and 2013, namely that language knowledge is higher for those in the labour force and those studying than those who are economically inactive. The direction of the causality is, however, not established. Are people economically inactive because they know less French or do they know less French because they are economically inactive?

9. Towards "normal" housing conditions?

Access to home ownership or public housing is the sign of being a "normal" resident for the new migrants. These two forms of housing respond to two key criteria: migrants have their own home and access to comfortable accommodation. Private sector tenants, while they may effectively live in an independent apartment, do not generally have access to a comfortable lodging: only three in ten new migrants in this type of accommodation are adequately housed [17].

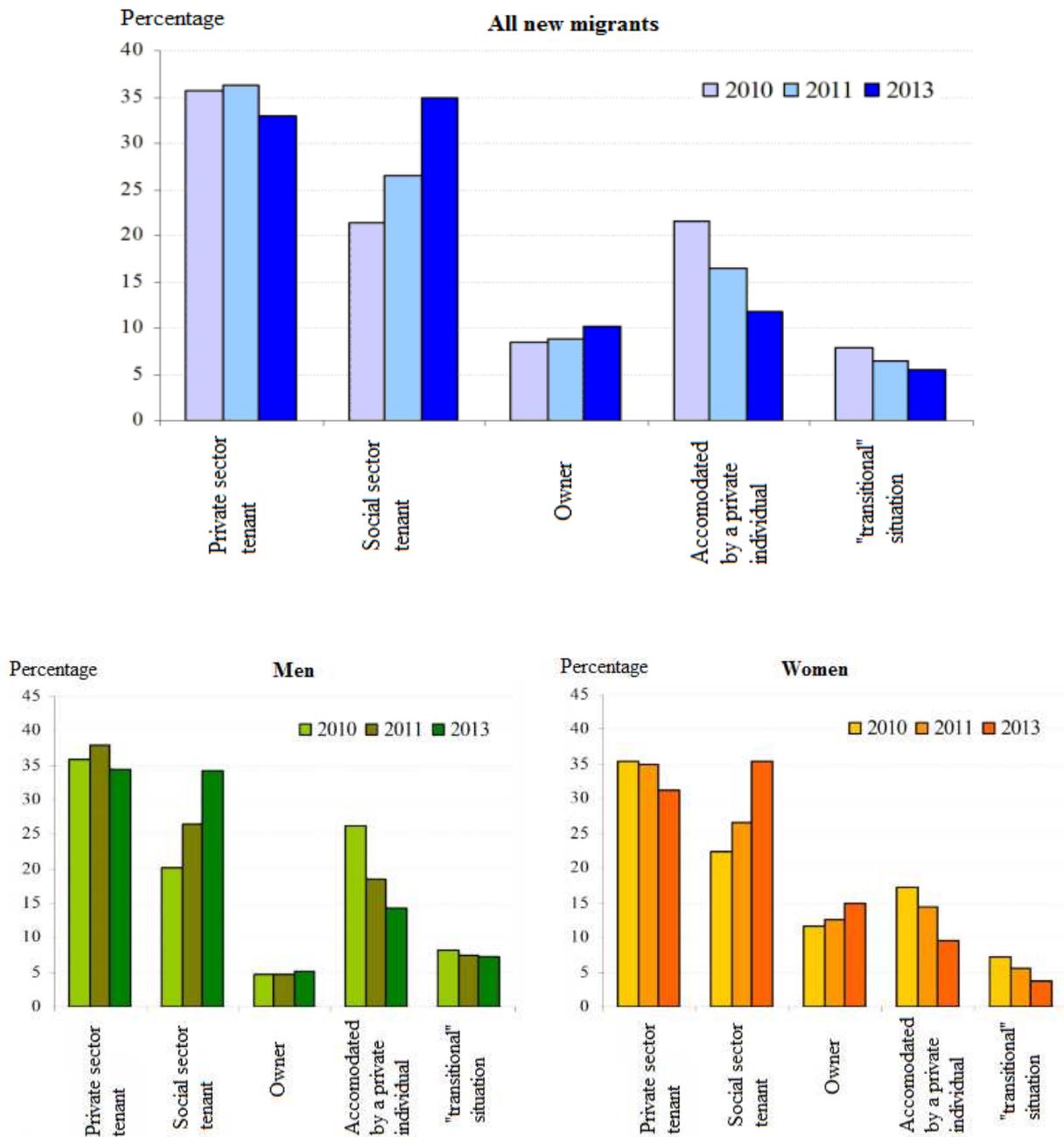
Between 2010 and 2013, the proportion of migrants renting social housing rose sharply (from 21 % to 35 %) and those owning their accommodation remained steady or rose slightly (Figure 7). By contrast, the main decrease is in the proportion of migrants staying in other people's homes. The proportions of tenants in the private sector and those in "transitory" housing (social centres, hotel rooms, accommodation managed by an association or a reception centre) are also down, but to a lesser degree. Thus, within three years, the types of accommodation used by new migrants shift quite rapidly towards housing integration.

Despite this, the new migrants' housing conditions are still clearly less favourable than those of the rest of the population. For comparison, the proportion of households that are homeowners in the population as a whole stayed steady at around 58 % [18] between 2009 and 2013 (as against 8 % to 10 % for the new migrants). In addition, the new migrants, and immigrants in general, also have a transitory housing situation more often than the rest of the population [19,20]. This situation affects only 1 % of the population as a whole, compared to 5 % to 8 % for the new migrants.

Among the new migrants, the women are better housed than the men [19]. They more often live in an independent housing unit, that is to say, rented or purchased accommodation. In 2010, 75 % of the women lived in a personal housing unit, as against 65 % of the men³. This difference is mainly explained by the fact that a larger proportion of the women are homeowners (12 % as against 5 % for the men). What is more, the women are housed in other people's homes less often than the men.

3. These percentages include the new migrants living in rented housing units belonging to an association or to an unspecified owner (private landlord or public housing body) not represented in the figure.

Figure 7: Changes in the new migrants' housing between 2010 and 2013, by type



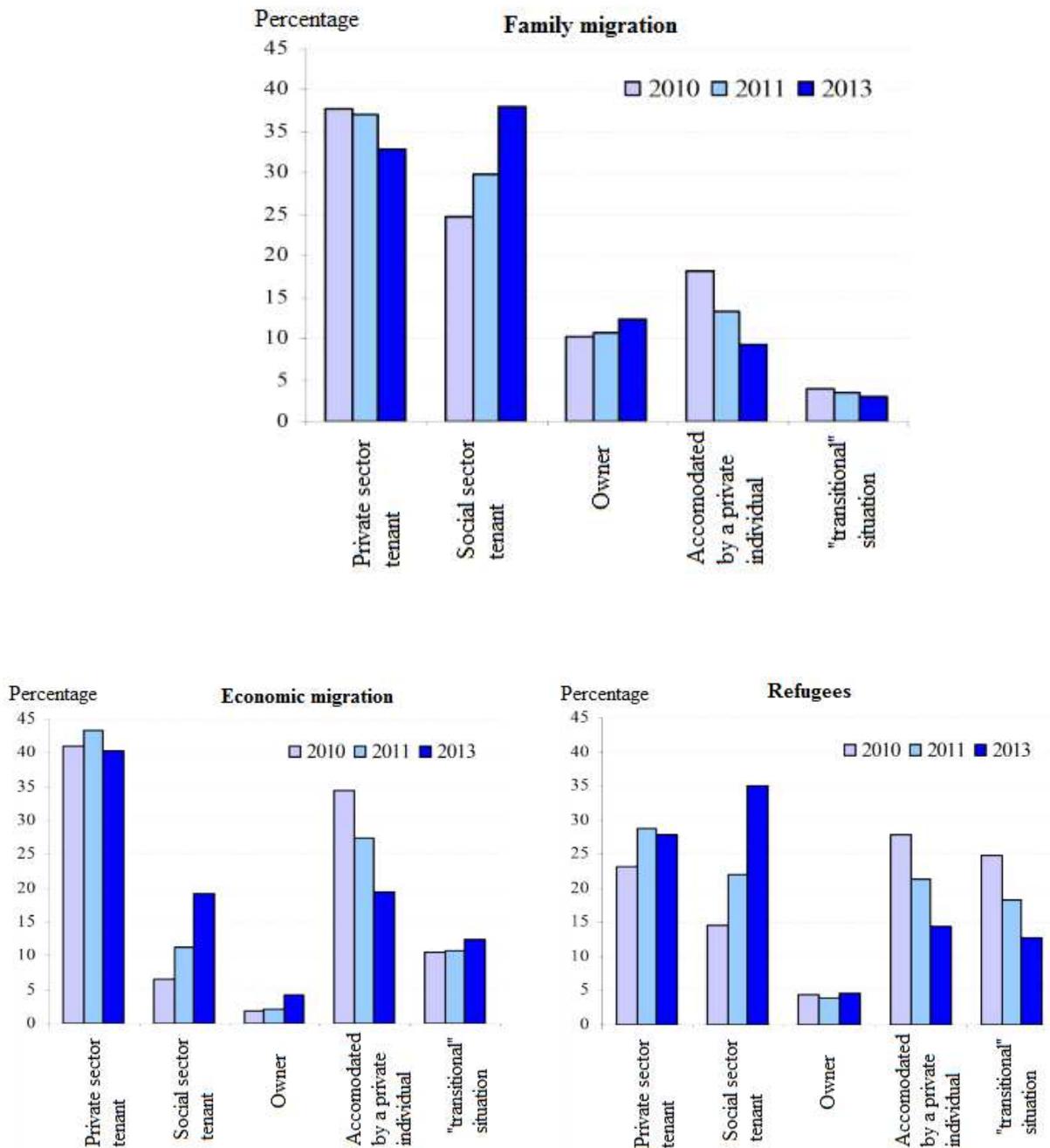
Source: Elipa survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2013), DGFF-DSED

The type of housing also depends on the family composition. The women less often live alone and are more often in a couple with or without child(ren). These situations favour better accommodation. They are, however, single parents more often than men. Being the head of a single-parent family is the least favourable situation for access to a personal housing unit. The composition of the women's families living in transitory accommodation or housed in another person's home is different from that of the men. Thus, only 21 % of the women housed in a transitory situation live alone (as opposed to 65 % of the men). By contrast 45 % of them are single parents (1 % of the men). As regards the migrants staying in other people's homes, 27 % of the women are single and 19 % are single parents. For the men the proportions are 63 % and 2 % respectively. Generally speaking, the family composition that the women live in is favourable for access to housing. With an identical family composition, the women have better housing than the men.

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The differences in housing by gender are to be explained also by the different reasons why a residence permit was issued. In fact, the type of housing and reason for residence permit are closely linked (Figure 8). Compared to the new migrants that came for economic reasons and the refugees, the family migrants are better housed [20]. More than three family migrants in four have housing in their own right. To this it should be added that in France, people who come in the framework of family reunification are notably required to have housing that responds to standards of decency (hygiene, comfort) and that is comparable to the housing of a family living in the same geographical region. The proportion of people housed by an individual and that of those living in transitory accommodation are thus lower for the family migrants (18 % and 4 % in 2010) than for the refugees (28 % and 25 %) and for the economic migrants (35 % and 11 %). With the same reason for being given a residence permit, the housing conditions are better for the women.

Figure 8: Changes in the new migrants' type of housing between 2010 and 2013 by reason for residence permit



Source: Elipa survey, 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves (2010-2011-2013), DGFF-DSED

In order to have some insights:

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[1] and [12] are available in english

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Voir / See <http://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Info-ressources/Documentation/Publications>