

Lycées Etienne Oehmichen Châlons-en-Champagne

Migration Challenges



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Introduction

Between 1820 and 1920, 60M poor Europeans emigrated to America. They were 300,000 a year in the mid-nineteenth century. A second wave started after World War II.

Not so long ago, Europe was the first continent from which people fled to find a better life abroad. The trend reversed between 1945 and 1973 when European countries called for unqualified immigrant workers coming from developing countries to face the industrial needs and work in factories.



The 1974 economic crisis lessened the European need for immigrant workforce. From the 1990s to today, Europe has been enforcing restriction policies and closing its borders to non-European migrants.

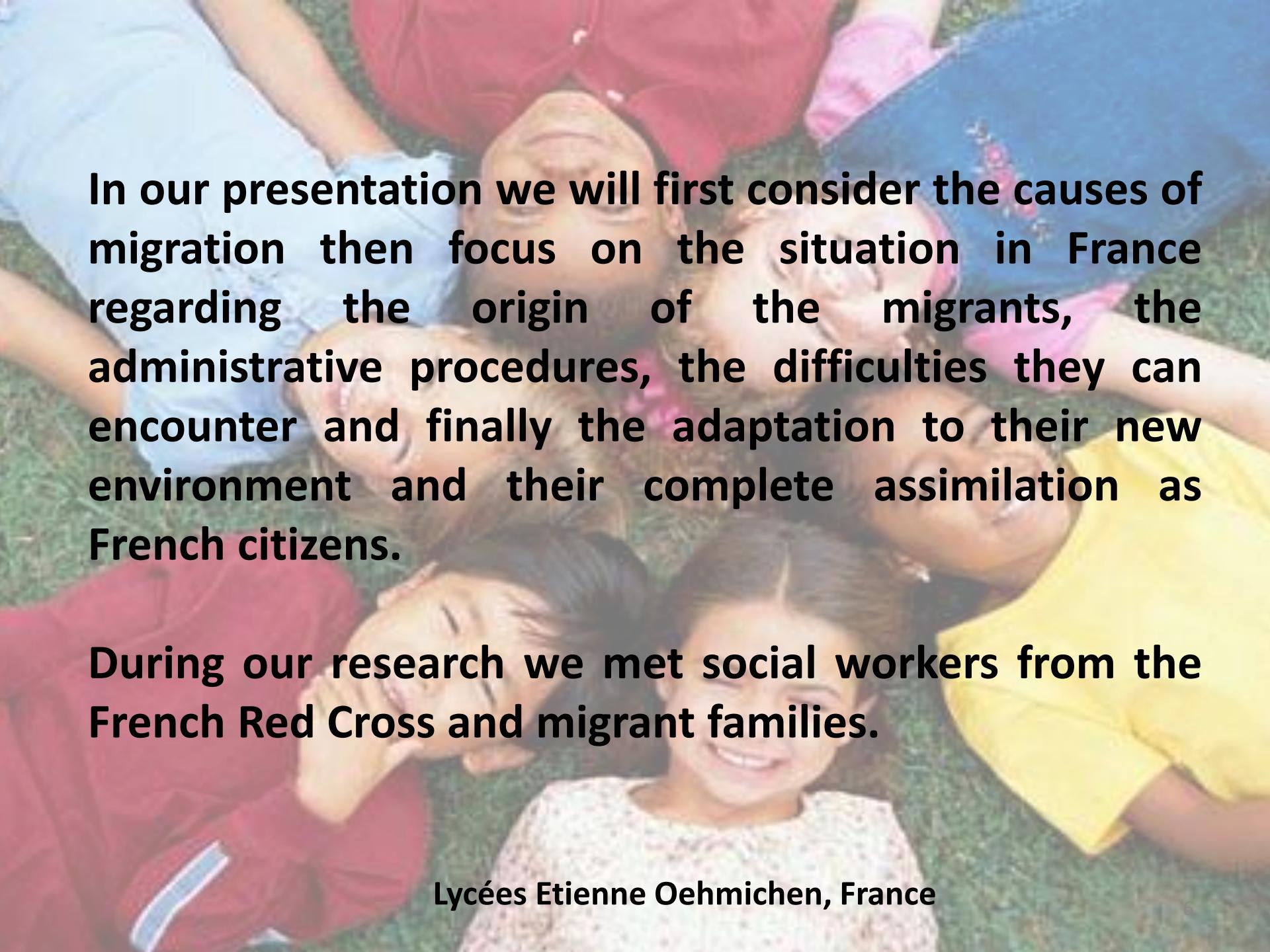
However, for decades now, migration has been increasing in Europe as the gap between the South and the North has widened.



For an ageing Europe, immigration is becoming a necessity as it will lose 100M people in the active population in the next 50 years.

According to the United Nations, the EU should be accepting 1.6M migrants every year to compensate its weak population growth.

Europe has to integrate, adapt to and reinvent its cultural diversity. This is what makes our Comenius work so topical.



In our presentation we will first consider the causes of migration then focus on the situation in France regarding the origin of the migrants, the administrative procedures, the difficulties they can encounter and finally the adaptation to their new environment and their complete assimilation as French citizens.

During our research we met social workers from the French Red Cross and migrant families.

I -Categories of migrants

There are many categories of migrants :

- workers (200,000 a year – to be reduced to 180,000 in 2012 due to restrictions in the immigration policies)
- students
- families (private and family life permit)
- political refugees
- economical refugees

Types of working permits :

- Skills and Talents permit (valid for 3 years and renewable)
- Salaried worker permit
- Temporary worker permit
- Seasonal worker permit
- Employee on assignment permit (if you have been employed for at least three months by a French company based abroad)
- Scientific permit (if you have a master's degree or equivalent and you want to carry out research or teach in a French University) .

France has nearly 1.6M immigrant workers.

II –Geographical origins



France is the sixth destination for migrants after the USA, Russia, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Canada.

There are officially 5.1M foreign born residents in France making a total of 11.1 % of the population.

- **Migrants from the EU and Turkey**



III –French expatriates

A rise of 30% has been noticed between 1991 and 2002. The official figures rise up to a total of 1,099,813 French expatriates in the world. The present trend is more people leaving France than coming back home. 63% expatriates head for an EU country (51.3%) or North America (12.8%). Most of them are highly qualified. 75% stay less than 10 years abroad.

Reasons for going abroad:

- Globalization which has favored international mobilities
- Outsourcing of activities by French companies (only the highly qualified managers are offered a job to train the local employees)
- Escape high level of taxation in France
- Find a better income and better working conditions
- Gain international experience

IV- Settling in France

French authorities have to “ensure that immigrants are welcomed and treated as citizens with respect.”

To settle in France a visa is required for all migrants coming from outside the European Union and Switzerland.

5,163 people (among which 256 EU citizens) were granted a permanent resident permit in our area in 2010.

FRENCH RED CROSS in Châlons-en-Champagne

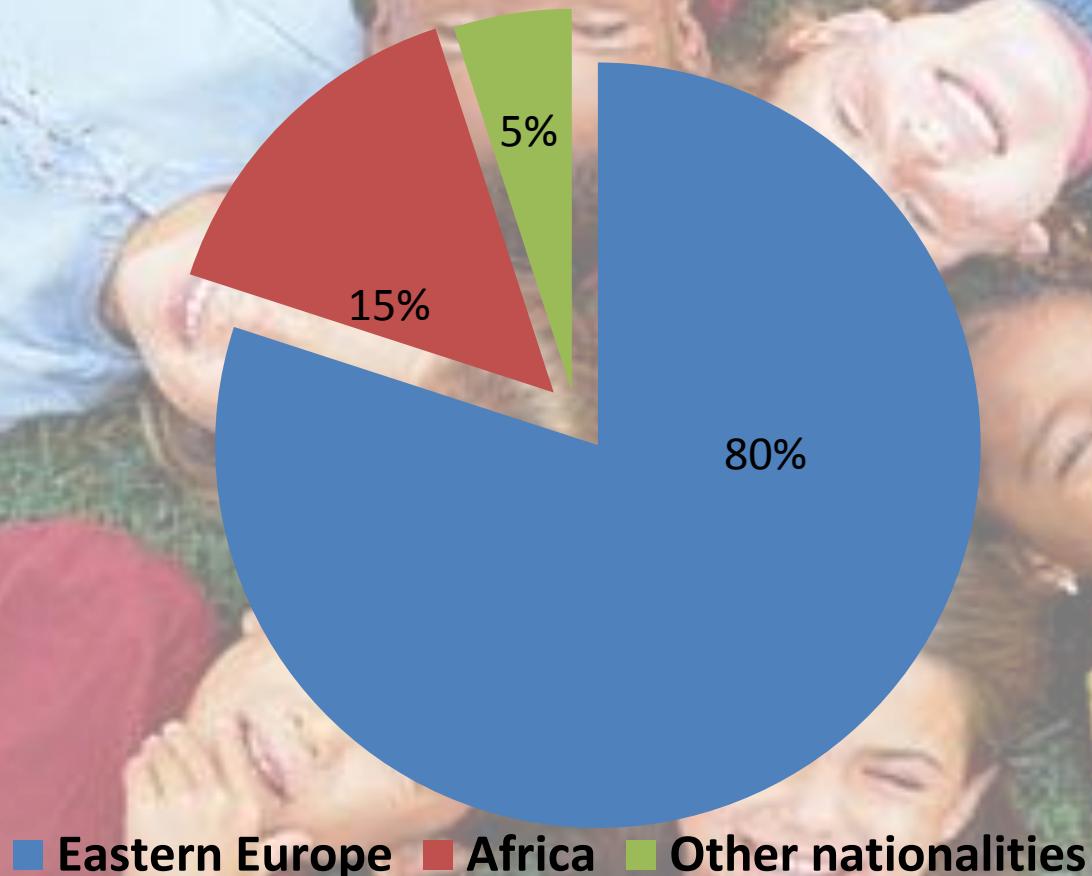
The CADA (*Centre d'Aide aux Demandeurs d'Asile* – Asylum Seekers Center) depends of the Social Department of the Red Cross. This center opened in Châlons in June 2008 to help migrants seeking asylum in France for political, ethnic and religious persecution under the Geneva Convention.

France is the third destination, after the USA and Canada, of asylum seekers. 60,000 asylum applications are filled every year in France.

Financing :

- State : 25€/day/refugee
- French Red Cross (private donations)

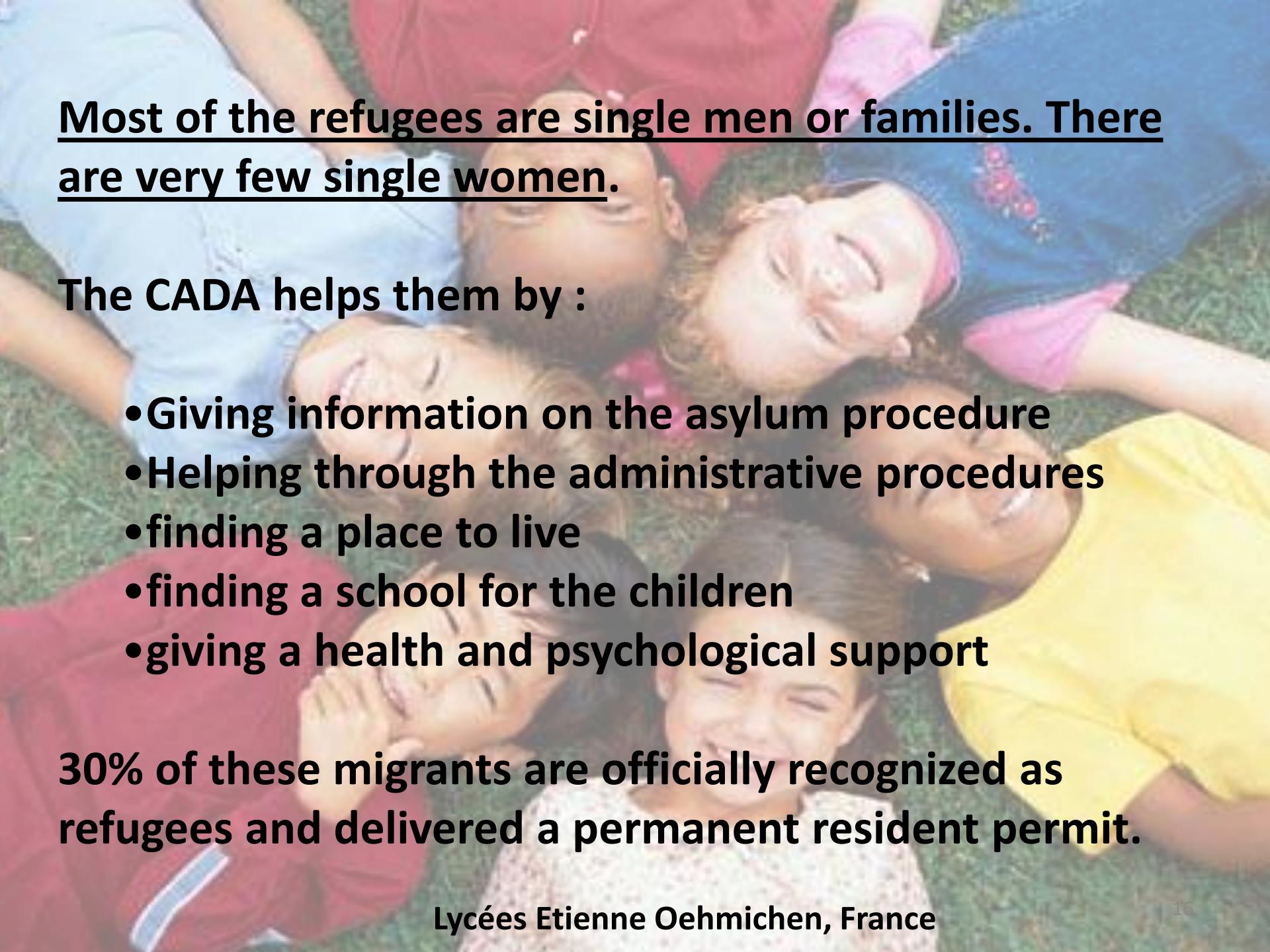
Geographical origin of the refugees



Eastern Europe : Russia, Armenia, Kosovo, Serbia (80%)

Africa (15%)

Other nationalities (5%)



Most of the refugees are single men or families. There are very few single women.

The CADA helps them by :

- Giving information on the asylum procedure
- Helping through the administrative procedures
- finding a place to live
- finding a school for the children
- giving a health and psychological support

30% of these migrants are officially recognized as refugees and delivered a permanent resident permit.

V – Difficulties encountered at their arrival in France

- Language: being understood by others and understanding them
- Housing (especially in the Paris area and in other big cities)
- Finding a job
- Administrative problems / paperwork
- Integration: having new friends, being socially accepted

VI – Undocumented migrants leaving France

In 2008, there were more than 1.1M visa applications and only 9.10% were denied.

Nearly 80,000 undocumented migrants were arrested.

Voluntary departures : 8,349 in 2008.

Migrants who are denied a resident permit can be offered a grant to go back to their homeland.

- 2,000€ for an adult (1,500€ for the spouse)
- 500€ for a child

Deportations :

20% of undocumented migrants are deported each year.

VII - The cultural integration process

This process begins when arriving by taking French language courses and passing an examination (*DILF – Diplôme initial de langue française*). Migrants get basic information on France and learn about its Republican values.

Before obtaining a resident permit, the migrant has to sign an integration agreement (*Contrat d'accueil et d'intégration*) stating that he will do his best to respect the values of the Republic and integrate into the French culture.



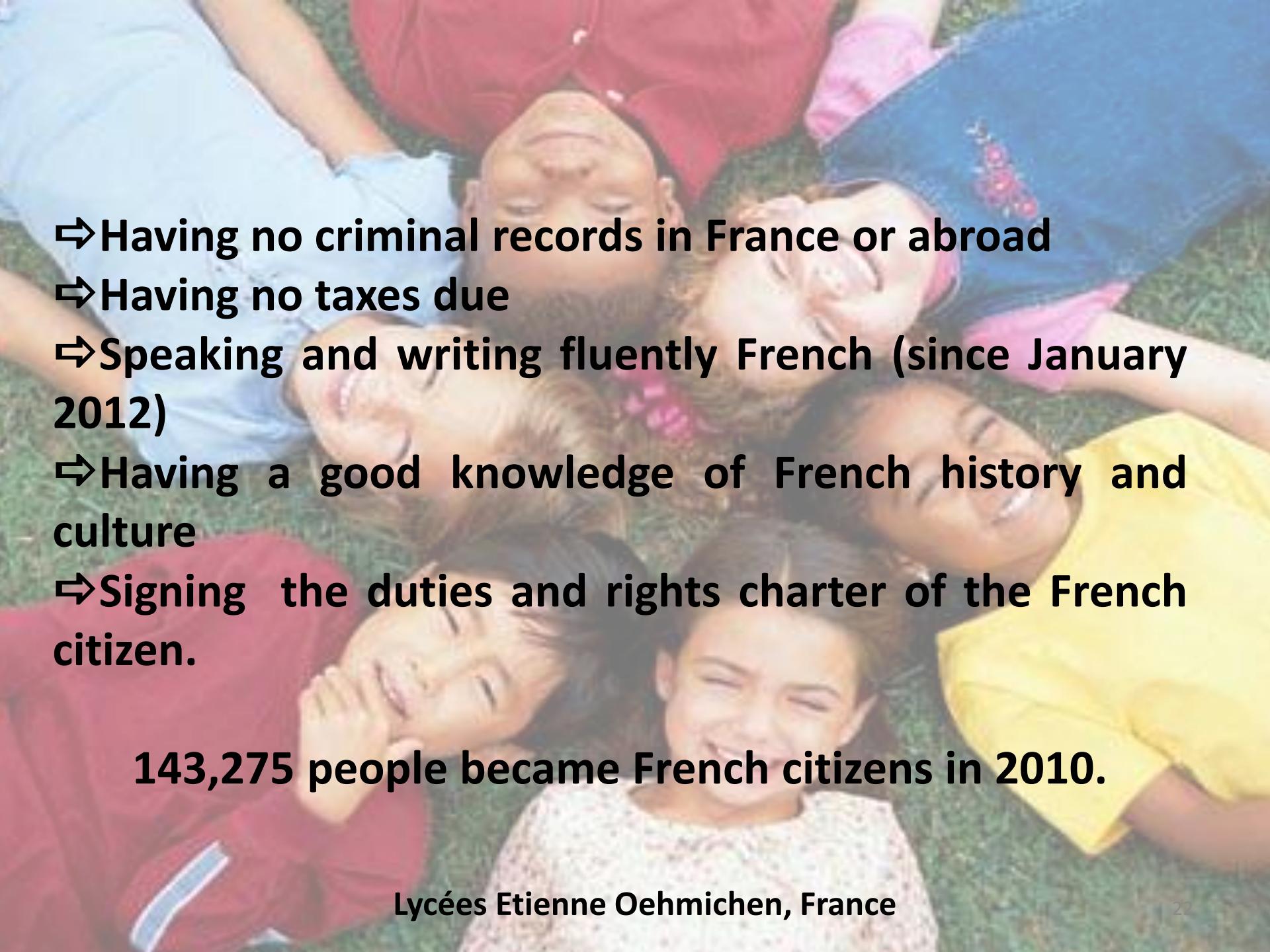
**The migrant should have a regular and stable job.
The unemployment rate in foreign communities are
three times higher than the national average).**

Regulations exist aiming at promoting cultural diversity in private companies, making jobs access easier, supporting newly arrived migrants and foreign communities.

VIII – Access to French citizenship

After a few years spent in France, any foreign citizen can apply for French citizenship respecting certain criteria :

- ⇒ Be a permanent and legal resident in France for at least five years
- ⇒ Have an employment or be financially independent
- ⇒ Having assimilated to the French community
- ⇒ Having strong family links in France



- ⇒ Having no criminal records in France or abroad
- ⇒ Having no taxes due
- ⇒ Speaking and writing fluently French (since January 2012)
- ⇒ Having a good knowledge of French history and culture
- ⇒ Signing the duties and rights charter of the French citizen.

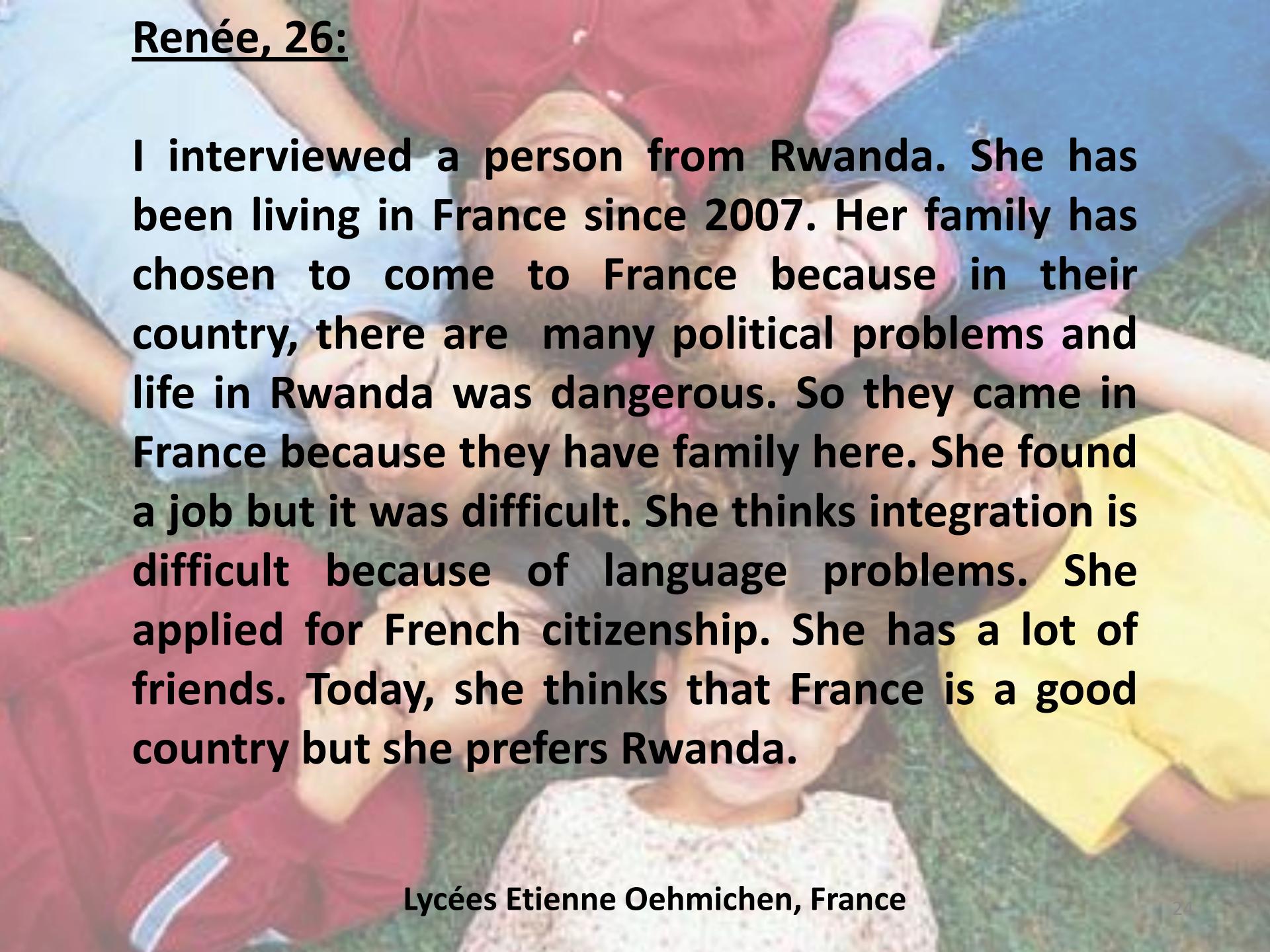
143,275 people became French citizens in 2010.

IX – Migrants' point of view

Denis, 17, from Rwanda:

“ I arrived in France by plane one year ago. Some people helped me with my paperwork. I get money from the French government. Unfortunately, some people don't accept me. Now I understand French language and I'm understood. Life is as I expected before coming. ”

Renée, 26:



I interviewed a person from Rwanda. She has been living in France since 2007. Her family has chosen to come to France because in their country, there are many political problems and life in Rwanda was dangerous. So they came in France because they have family here. She found a job but it was difficult. She thinks integration is difficult because of language problems. She applied for French citizenship. She has a lot of friends. Today, she thinks that France is a good country but she prefers Rwanda.

Ferehiwot, 38 :

- “Hello, may I ask you a few questions please? What is your country of origin?”
- “I come from Ethiopia. “
- “And since when have you been in France?”
- “I have been in France since 2001.”
- “Ok, and why did you choose France as a host country?”
- “I chose France because my husband is French.”
- “Did you have other relatives in France?”
- “No.”
- “And have you got a job?”
- “Yes”
- “For you, was it difficult to find job?”
- “Yes, very difficult.”
- “Have you applied for French citizenship?”
- “No”
- “Have you got many friends in France?”
- “Yes.”
- “For you, was integration in a new country difficult?”
- “I think so because of the language barrier.”
- “Finally, today what do you think of France? And do you have the same opinion as when you arrived?”
- “I got used to this country, and no, I have a different opinion.”
- “Thank you for answering my questions.”



TOUS
DIFFERENTS
SANS REELLE
DIFFERENCE



Comenius project meeting

ROMANIA



PAIX
Entraide
Egalité

