

German Language Class for Ethnic German Remigrants (January 22, 2003)

Abstract

Ethnic German remigrants from Eastern Europe, so-called *Spätaussiedler*, constitute a special category of immigrants. Ethnic German remigrants are persons of German descent from the states of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Bloc who moved to Germany to escape ethnic discrimination. If their status as *Spätaussiedler* is confirmed, they may acquire German citizenship. Many ethnic German remigrants only speak a little bit of German, and their non-German relatives and children usually have no knowledge of the language at all. While the number of *Spätaussiedler* has steadily declined since the mid-1990s, there has been a proportional increase in the number of non-German (i.e., non-German speaking) relatives accompanying them to Germany. This has led to considerable integration problems. Thus, on January 1, 2005, basic German language competency became a condition for the admission of the non-German relatives of ethnic German remigrants. This photo shows Russian *Spätaussiedler* of various ages at a German course in the admission camp Berlin-Marienfelde in January 2003.

Source



Source: picture-alliance / dpa (c) ZB - Special

Recommended Citation: German Language Class for Ethnic German Remigrants (January 22, 2003), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/a-new-germany-1990-2023/ghdi:image-3243>> [March 11, 2026].