Immigration, settlement and integration into the ESCQ– trends and issues

Preliminary overview

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Who settles immigrants in Québec?

MICC funding for community settlement services

MICC funds over 150 partner organizations for newcomer integration.

Services include: reception, information and referral, help finding housing, personalized counselling, translation, job market orientation and French courses. The most important funding programs specifically for immigrant reception and settlement services are:

- PRSOCA (Programme de reconnaissance et de soutien des organismes communautaires autonomnes) – Core funding
- PANA (Programme d'accompagnement des nouveaux arrivants) – Project funding
- PILI (Programme d'intégration linguistique pour les immigrants) - *francisation* (language and culture)

Francisation and integration

MICC partners must…

contribute to the "***linguistic, social and economic integration***" of immigrants and

promote the use of French
among their clientele and employees
and use French in all communication with the Ministère.

The “other” community sector: ESCQ groups

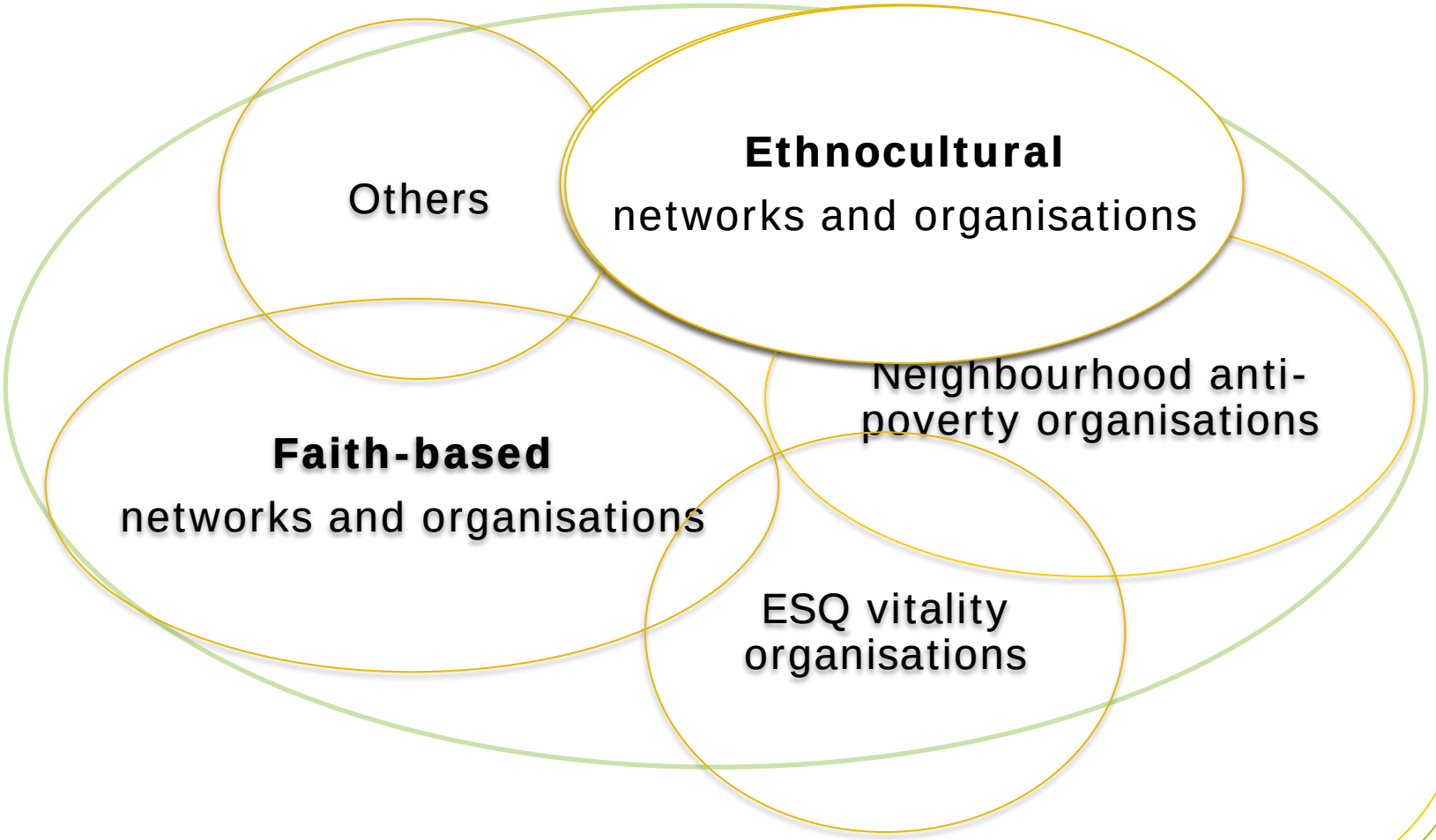
Non-francophone community organizations are:

- not studied (until now)
- more diverse
- little known, not known or not recognized by the Quebec government
- working with less government funding
- less connected

(Source: COCo, 2010)

ESCQ community groups helping to settle immigrants are no exception.

ESCQ groups settling immigrants



Diverse “sub-sector”

- Formal or informal
- Ethnic and language identities
- Levels of funding from all sources
- Degree of connection with networks
- Who they serve

Barriers

Lack of…

- funding
- visibility
- involvement in mainstream networks

Lack of legitimacy?

A “gateway” to Quebec, a “bridge” to the majority?

Gateway, bridge functions

- Basic reception information and accompaniment
- Employment and social contacts
- Rights advocacy
- Individual “integration” counselling that emphasises French language skills
- Legal assistance
- Invitation into ES community institutions

- Referring to French courses
- Twinning and social events with Francophones
- Helping find employment in French-speaking public institutions

Outcomes
of ESCQ settlement work

Who benefits?

1) Immigrants

2) Francophone Quebec society

3) ESCQ

Immigrants for whom?

Francophone minorities outside Quebec use immigration to enhance their own vitality.

Why do English-speakers help settle immigrants? Why be a “bridge”?

- To help immigrants integrate into the majority francophone culture?

  and/or

- To enhance our own vitality as a minority?

Do we need a debate about the legitimacy of playing these roles?

Questions?

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