

# How Belgian muslims relate to money and financial products



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and financial products

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# 1

## Why did we choose this topic?



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# We live in a multi cultural society



**638.000 in 2010  
1,17 millions in 2030?**



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# There are many opinions about Muslims

Ils n'essaient pas de s'intégrer

Muslims zijn conservatief

Ils viennent en Europe pour profiter de notre sécurité sociale

Muslims zetten zich af tegen onze westerse waarden

Ils ne veulent pas travailler

Moslima's met een hoofddoek zijn niet geïntegreerd

# Our customers expressed interest to know more



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# Who did we interview?

**16 interviews**

**28-31 Jan 2013**

**Brussels  
Antwerp  
Liège**

**Turkisk/Maroccan**

**1st/2nd/3rd  
generation**

**Conservative/  
progressive**

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## What have we learned?



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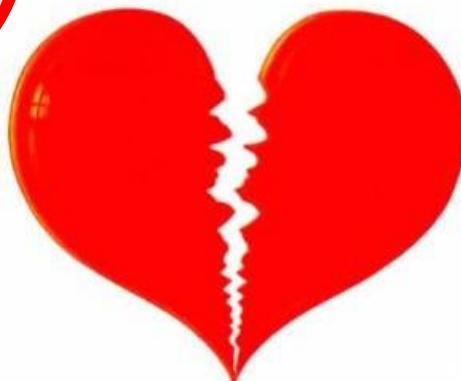
# Being a Belgian muslim

**DESIRE or  
PRESSURE**

to stay connected  
with their origins  
and roots

**NEED or  
ASPIRATION**

to integration, to  
adapt to a more  
Western lifestyle



## How can I integrate them?



Some feel stronger the  
(conservative, protective)  
belonging

Others feel stronger the  
(open, progressive)  
aspiration

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# Being a Belgian muslim

**"J'ai un style de vie très occidental ... mais je ne mange pas de porc, je ne bois pas d'alcool, je pratique le Ramadan...Je ne sais pas pourquoi, ... cela fait partie de mon éducation "**

Homme, Bxl, origine marocaine, 41 ans, marié à une non-musulmane, 2<sup>ème</sup> génération, progressiste

**"Nu is het voor mij moeilijk om een deel van mijn geloof aan mijn kinderen door te geven. Je leeft in een westers land en je moet je aanpassen. Wat ik normaal vind. Maar ik voel me een buitenstaander zowel hier als in Marokko. Je bent niet echt van dat land."**

Vrouw, Marokkanse afkomst, Antw 35 j gehuwd, conservatief, 2<sup>de</sup> generatie

**"De cultuur, daar pas je je aan aan, het is het geloof dat is meestal moeilijk omdat wij bepaalde verplichtingen hebben."**

Man, Turkse afkomst, Antw, 27j, woont thuis, 3<sup>de</sup> generatie, conservatief

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## And what about their relation to money?



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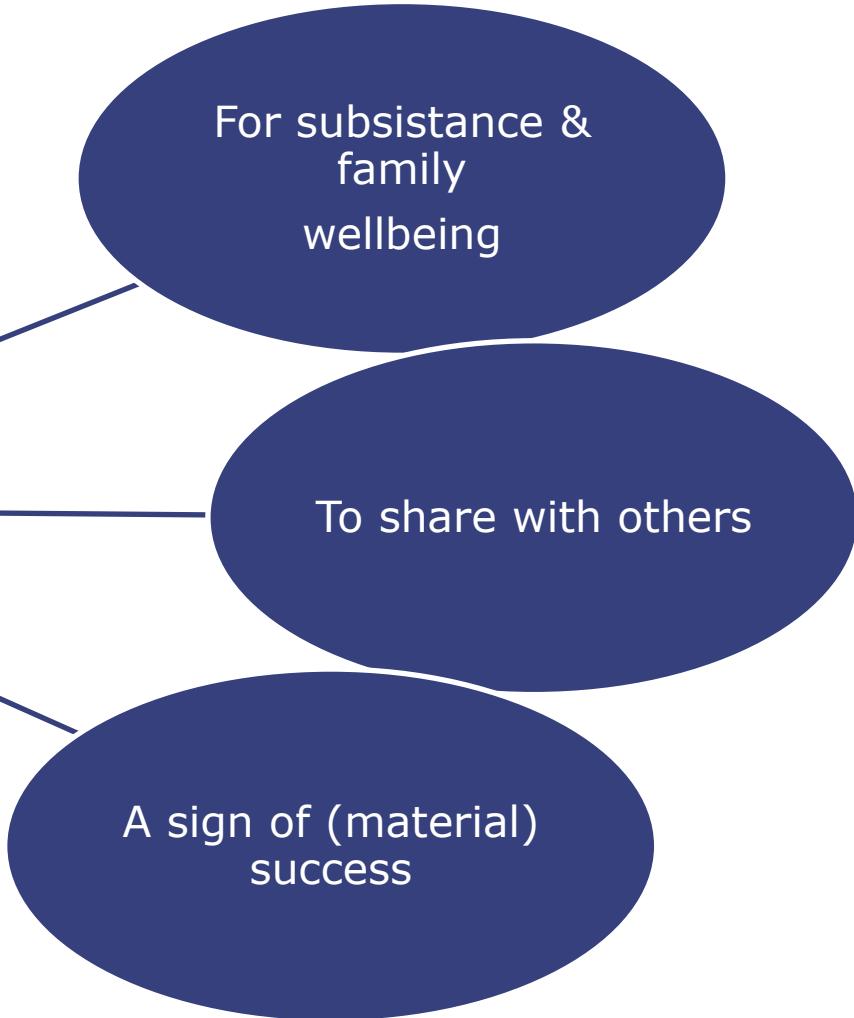
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# A community more materialist and solidary

## Money is good because it helps to support my values



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# Money is good because it helps to support my values

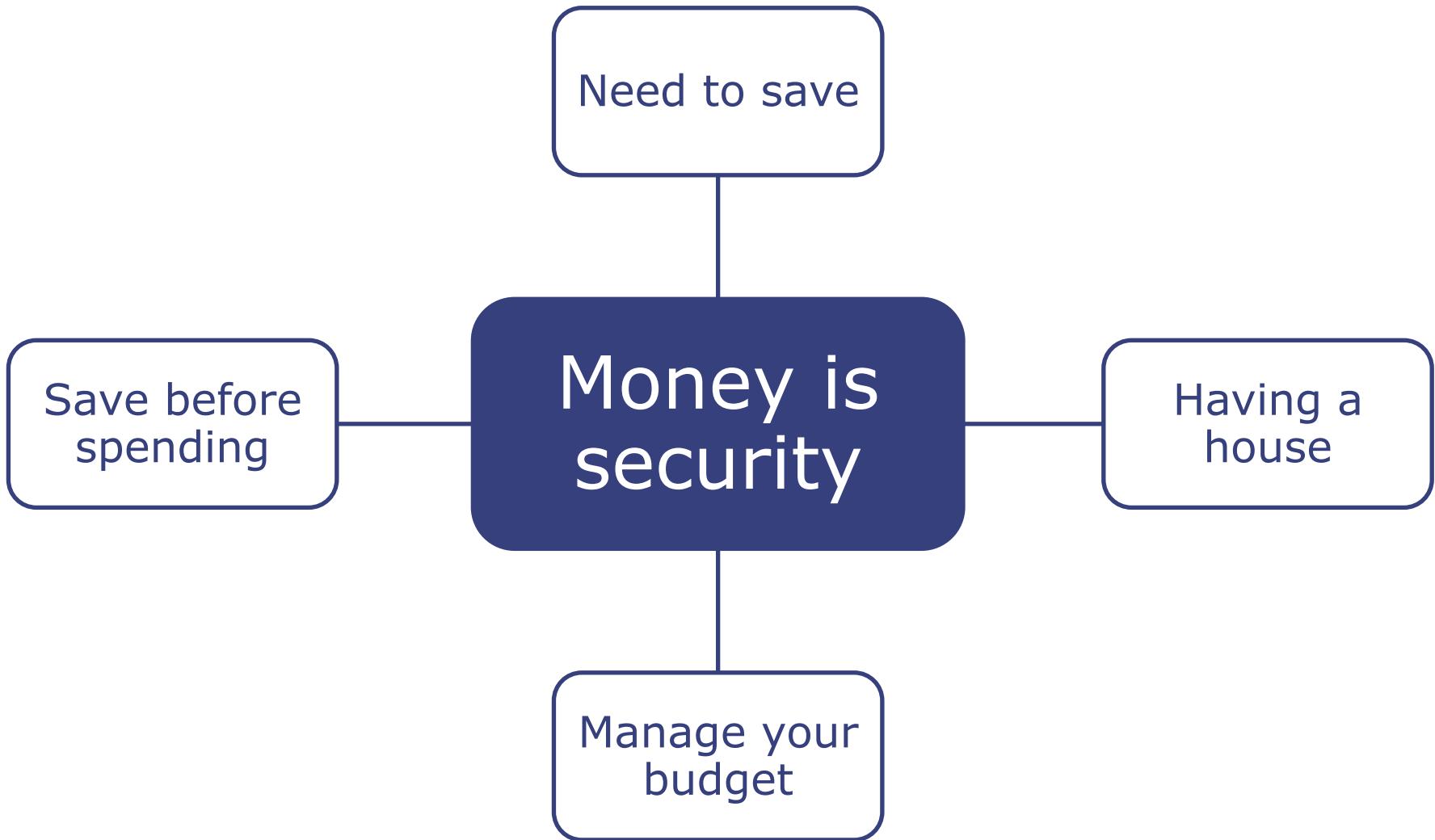
**"Geld is heel belangrijk. Dat maakt een groot de uit van uw leven. Zonder zou je dakloos zijn. Alles draait om geld. Eten, kleren,... Je wil gerust zijn. Je wil dat uw kinderen het goed hebben. Je wil reserve hebben, en ook wat kunnen genieten."**

Vrouw, 35 jaar, werkzoekend met kinderen, Antwerpen , Marokkaanse afkomst, 2<sup>de</sup> generatie, modern praktiserend

**"... C'est un des principes : pendant le Ramadan on est obligé de faire un don, on se sent mieux... Quand je vais au Maroc, je vais avec ma femme au resto et je donne à manger à trois personnes à côté."**

Homme, 32 ans, marié (avec non-musulmane), Lg, 2<sup>ème</sup> génération, origine marocaine, progressif

# How is similiar to people of Belgian origin?



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# What are the more important differences?

Money  
spontaneously top  
of mind important

“In ons Turkse gemeenschap gaan mensen gemakkelijker werken op zelfstandige basis. We zijn meer zakelijk ingesteld. Ook omdat ze de voorbeelden hebben van zakenmensen om geld te verdienen. Het eigen baas zijn... Veel investeren er in een eigen huis. Meer investeren in huizen dan Belgen.”

Man, 35 j, bediende, gehuwd, Antwerpen,  
Turkse origine, 2<sup>de</sup> generatie, progressief

It's OK to show  
you are  
successful

More  
entrepreneurial

# **But ... also many religious rules & restrictions to be respected**

**Earn your money (by hard work), non-merited money is forbidden**



**You have to give, share your money**

**You cannot make/have debts**

**Interest is bad and forbidden**

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## What about their expectations towards banks?



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# Very positive attitude towards banks

Keep my  
money safe

Allows to care  
for my family (via  
house lending)

Tools to  
function  
fluently in  
society



Little or no reference to  
the past banking  
crisis/scandals

# How is this similar to people of Belgian origin?

**Same perception  
of the banks**

**Want a good  
deal & be well-  
serviced**

**Payment cards &  
home banking =  
convenient &  
safe**

**Credit cards  
only as a  
payment &  
budget tool**

# What are important differences?



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# **SAVING** is a must but I may not accept the interests

**“ À la base le crédit est interdit mais il y a moyen de faire des crédits à 0%. Mais même avec ça, les dettes je ne supporte pas, ça me travaille, même pour les petites sommes. ”**

Femme, 35 ans, mariée, mère au foyer, Bxl,  
origine marocaine, 2ième génération, conservatrice

# **SAVING** is a must but I may not accept the interests



# Possible product development for SAVING?



**Banks  
organizing  
charity  
donating**

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**LENDING** is very desirable but interest is forbidden & buying before you earn is bad

**“La religion dit qu'on n'a pas fait d'effort pour cet argent... Surtout les gros intérêts sont un problème...”**

Homme, 27 ans, marié, origine Turque,  
3ième génération” – conservateur-progressif

**LENDING** is very desirable but interest is forbidden & buying before you earn is bad

Reject  
lending

Need to  
protect my  
family

strategies

Help from  
family/  
relatives

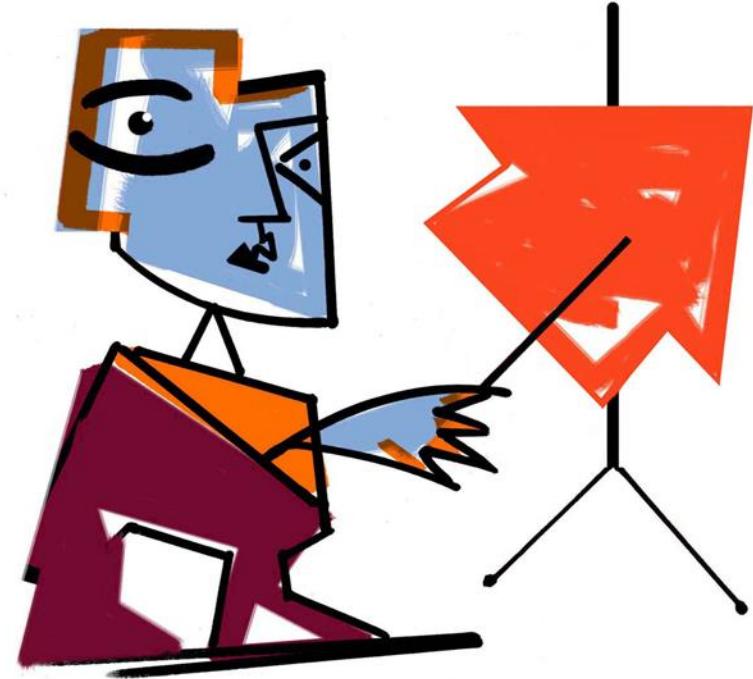
Organize  
community  
funds

# Possible product development for LENDING ?



**Community funds with the banks offering the means to store money and organize the borrowing**

# 5 Conclusions



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# Conclusions

1. **Understand** and **respect** their similarities and differences offers various **opportunities** for companies
2. Need to investigate **other sectors**
3. We can all contribute to **facilitate their integration**

# Thank you

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