Migration and Transnational Social Protection in (post) crisis Europe

Presentation of the MiTSoPro Project

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MiTSoPro: Conceptualizing social protection from a transnational perspective

❑ **Social protection:** welfare state interventions aiming to prevent individuals' exposure to social risks:

➢ Social insurance

➢ Social assistance

➢ Labour market intervention

❑ **Focus on transnational social protection:** migrants' cross border strategies to cope with social risk in areas such as health, pensions, unemployment, etc. that combine entitlements to host and home state-based public welfare policies and market and community based practices.

MiTSoPro: Research questions

➢ How do migrants access social protection in (post) crisis Europe?

➢ What kind of social benefits can migrants access in their countries of residence and what kind of social benefits can they export from their countries of origin?

➢ Do some migrant groups benefit from an easier formal access to social benefits than others?

➢ Under which conditions can migrants assemble their own cross-border social protection strategies, using home and host state policies and more informal community/family resources?

➢ Do some countries offer a more inclusive social protection regime for immigrants and emigrants than others?

MiTSoPro goals:
examining two pathways of access to transnational social protection

Stage 1- Transnational social protection from above

➢ Strategies led by **home and host authorities** to respond to social protection needs of immigrants and emigrants through various policies and programs

➢ Building the **Transnational Social Protection Database and Index**

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Stage 2- Transnational social protection from below

➢ **Immigrant-led strategies** that use market, community or family resources across borders to address their social protection needs

➢ Large scale **ethnographic fieldwork** in different European cities and in the homeland with relatives
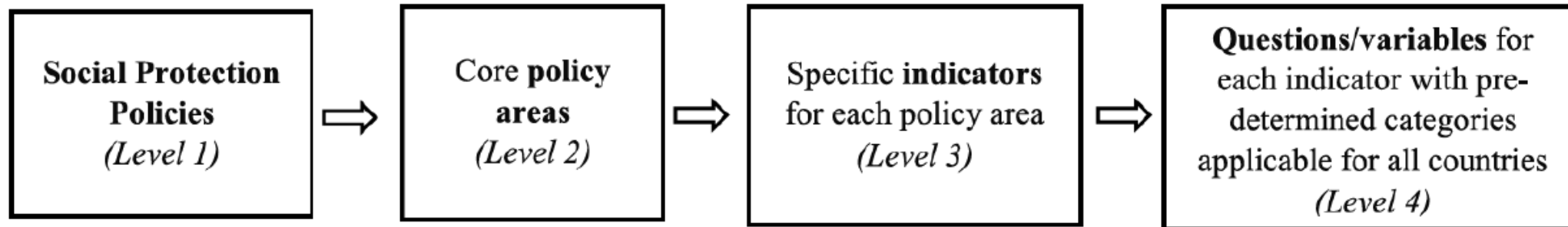
1. Building the Transnational Social Protection Database and Index (TSPix)

Transnational Social Protection Database and Index

Five core policy areas:

➢ Health care

➢ Family benefits

➢ Pensions

➢ Unemployment benefits

➢ Guaranteed minimum resources

Figure 1. Operationalization of the concept of social protection policies

Social Protection Policies (Level 1)		Core **policy areas** (Level 2)		Specific **indicators** for each policy area (Level 3)		**Questions/variables** for each indicator with pre-determined categories applicable for all countries (Level 4)

2 codebooks for data collection: 1) access to social protection & 2) diaspora policies

A) Codebook on access to social protection

Specific indicators/types of benefits for each policy area. Example policy area on family benefits:

- Maternity benefits
- Paternity benefits
- Parental benefits
- Child benefits

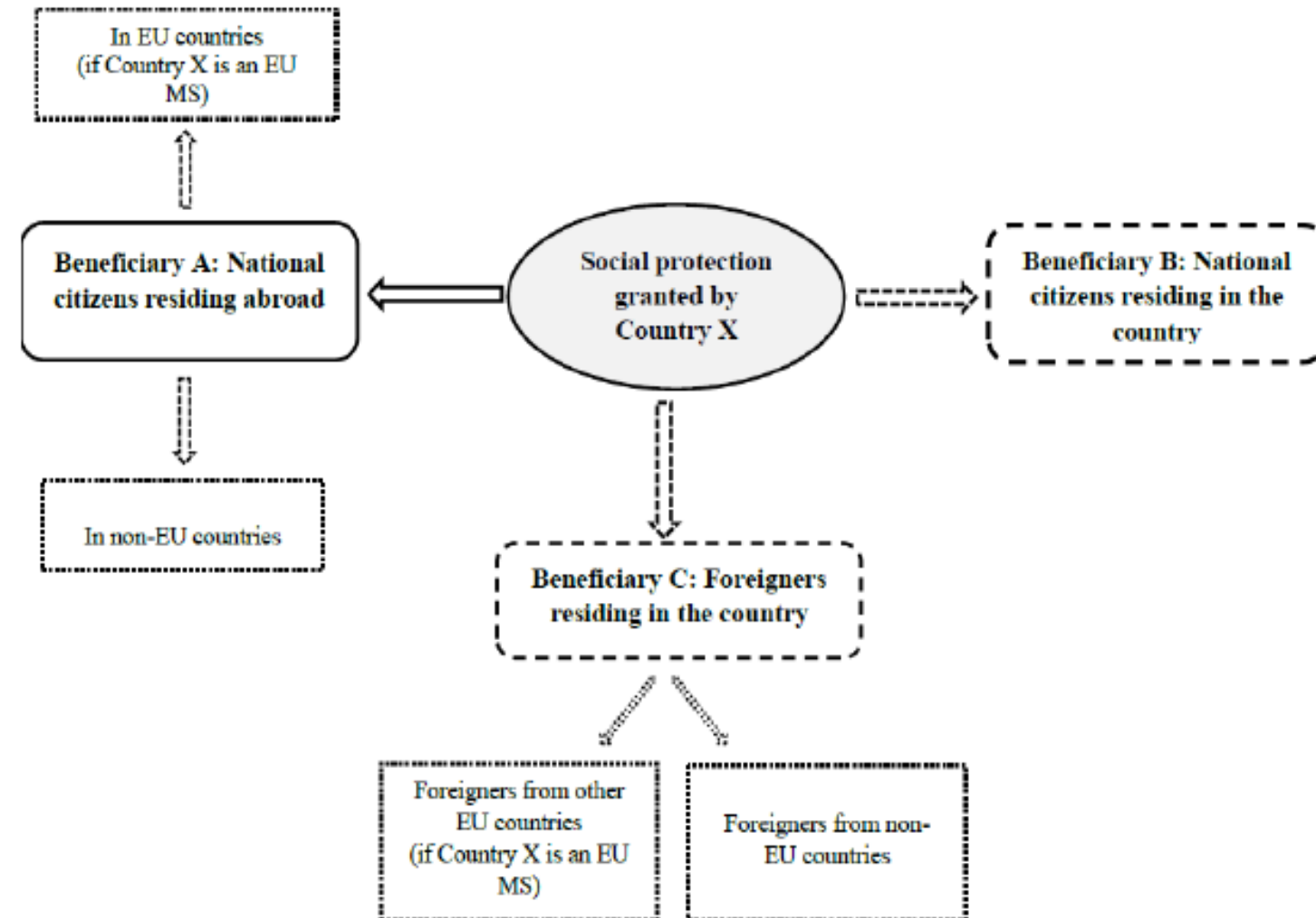**Questions/variables for each indicator/type of benefit:**

➢ Applicable legislation
➢ Beneficiaries
➢ Eligibility conditions
➢ Duration

MISSOC (EU's Mutual Information System on Social Protection) categories & database used as a starting point
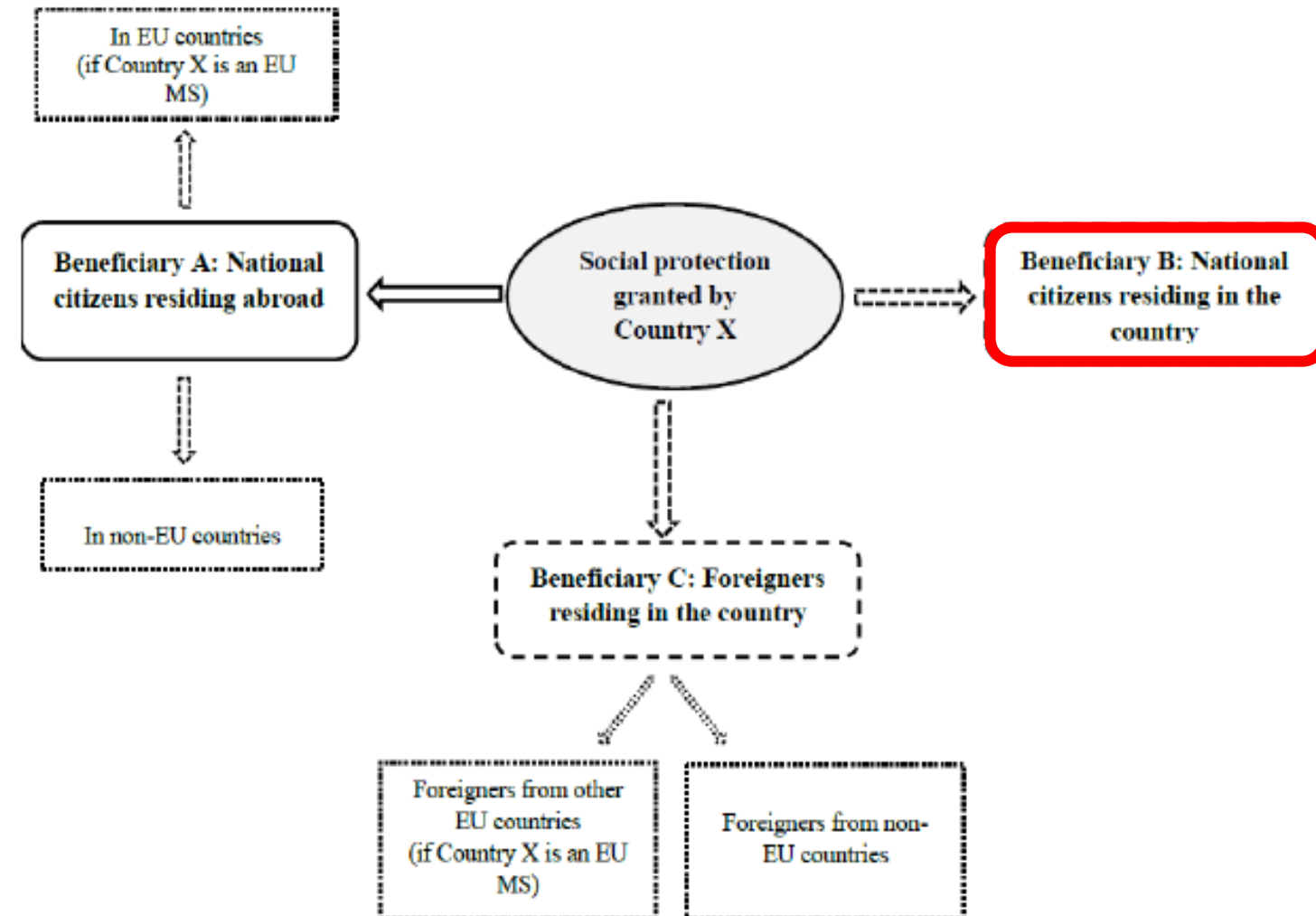
A) Codebook on access to social protection

Five groups of beneficiaries (repeated questions):

- National citizens residing in the country
- EU foreigners residing in the country
- Non-EU foreigners residing in the country
- National citizens residing abroad in EU countries
- National citizens residing abroad in non-EU countries

Figure 3. Proposal regarding the beneficiaries of social protection policies

A) Codebook on access to social protection

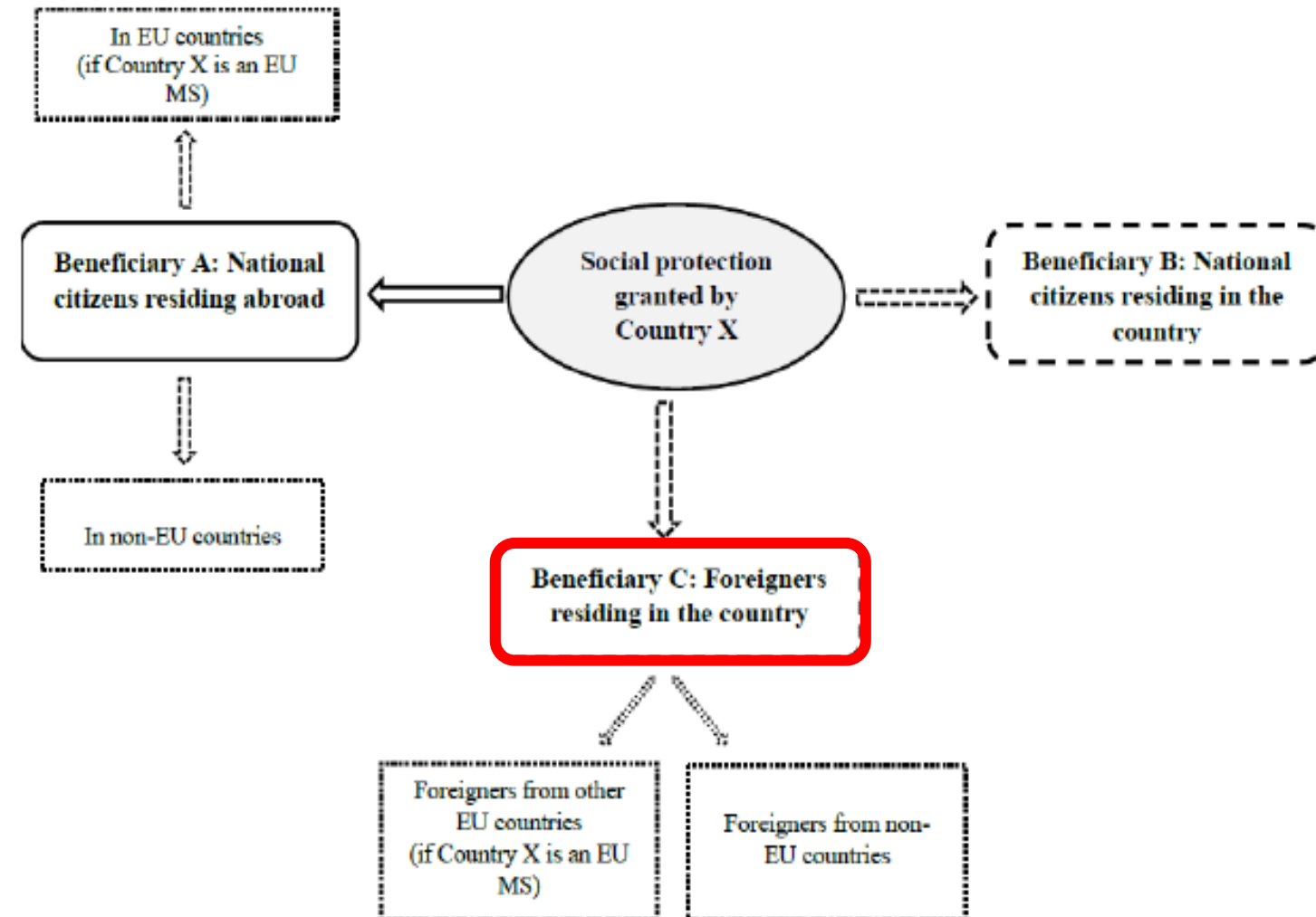Figure 3. Proposal regarding the beneficiaries of social protection policies

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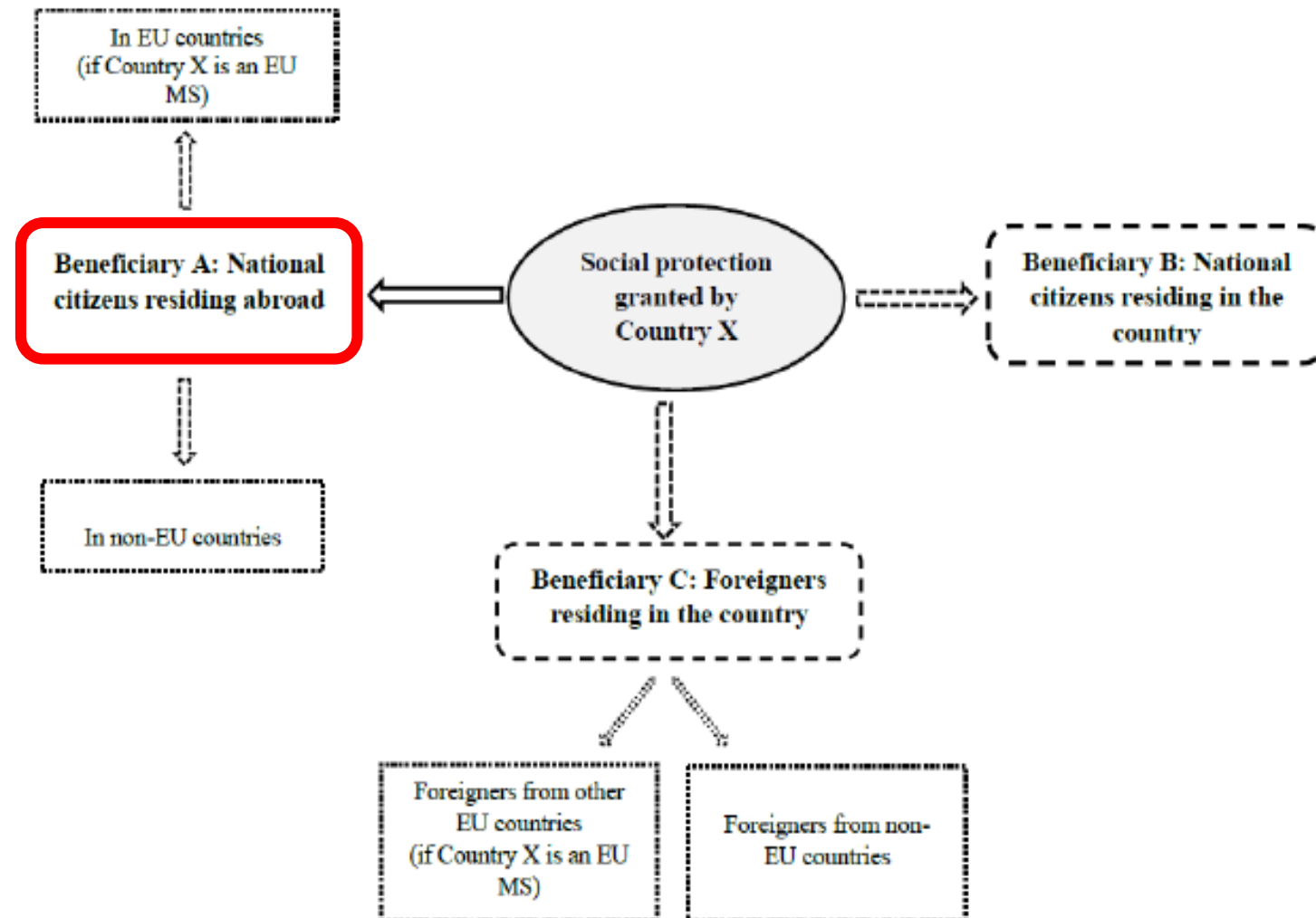
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Cases: 40 countries: 28 EU MS + 12 non-EU countries.

Case selection of the non-EU countries:

- Demographic concentration in the EU and in specific EU MS (they constitute one of the top five largest communities in at least X EU countries)

- Diversity in terms of territorial distribution outside the EU: non-EU Europe, America, Asia, Africa

- Size of the diaspora: the diaspora in the EU to represent at least X% of the overall diaspora of these countries of origin

B) Codebook on diaspora policies

- Same policy areas

- Same countries

- Focus on the policies that the home countries develop in order to ensure the social protection of their citizens residing in other countries

- General questions + specific questions on the top five destination countries for each one of the 40 countries included in the analysis

Transnational Social Protection Database and Index

Data collection:

- Expert survey

- 40 experts on social protection for codebook A

- 40 experts on migration studies for codebook B

- Data collection to start in February 2018

Index aimed to capture the level of inclusiveness in terms of access to social benefits

- Pre-determined values for each question based on the codebooks

- Scale to be used: 0-5, where 5 is the best policy ensuring full protection/coverage

- Aggregation rule: average scores for 1) benefits; 2) each policy area; 3) overall score for all policy areas. Sub-indexes for each country/group

Transnational Social Protection as an Immigrant Practice

➢ **Second stage**: ethnographic fieldwork to examine the materialization of Transnational Social Protection with specific migrant communities

Main rationale:
- "rights on paper" vs "rights in practice"
- rights interact with other SP strategies that cannot be captured in the index (e.g. family or network solidarities)

Strategy:
- Select the main migrant groups based on the level of formal TSP they have access to according to the Index
- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork not only with migrants, but using a matching method, also with the family members in countries of origin

Main aim:
- identify functioning of social protection corridors that span across various countries in which formal and informal SP strategies circulate between migrants and non-migrants

Thank you for your attention!

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