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MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONALISM
& SOCIAL PROTECTION



CEDEM
Centre d'Etudes
de l'Ethnicité et des Migrations



Immigrants' Access to Welfare across EU27: Comparative Insights from the ERC-funded project MiTSoPro

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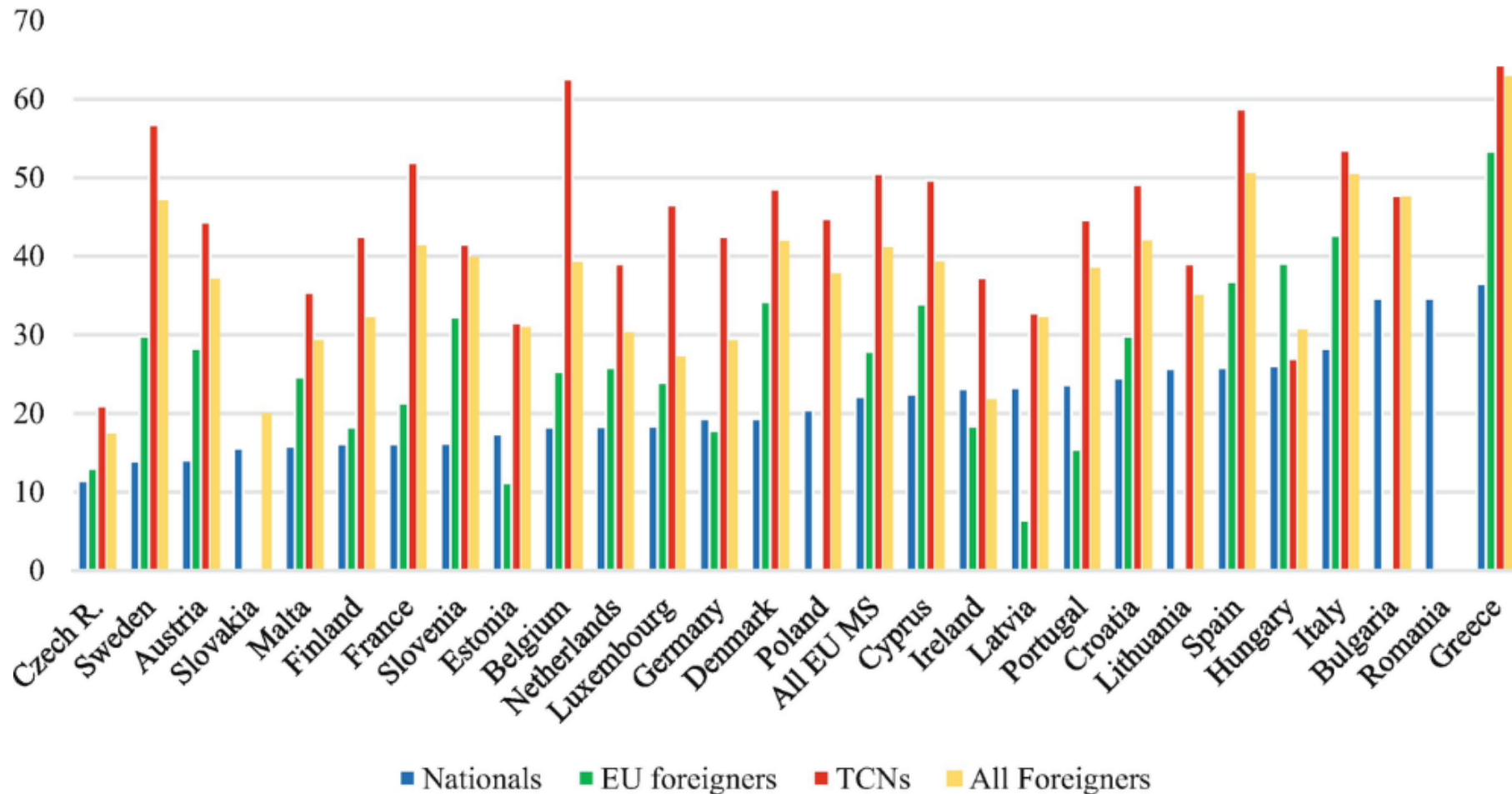
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- Increased immigration; societal concerns on the impact of migration on Welfare States; vulnerability



Source: Own elaboration based on Eurostat data (2017)- *People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by broad group of citizenship (population aged 18 and over [ilc_peps05]*, available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>



2 Research Questions:

What protection do **welfare states** provide to mobile individuals?

&

How do **migrants** respond to policies via transnational social protection strategies?

Methods: 2 parts

Quantitative part: 2 surveys across 40 countries: social protection survey & consular & diaspora policies survey

&

Qualitative part: Multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork: different migrant communities in EU & origin countries



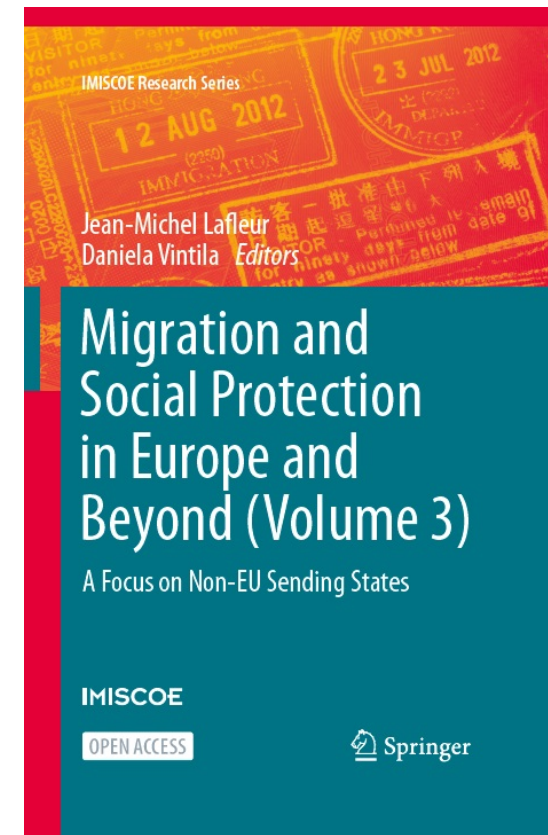
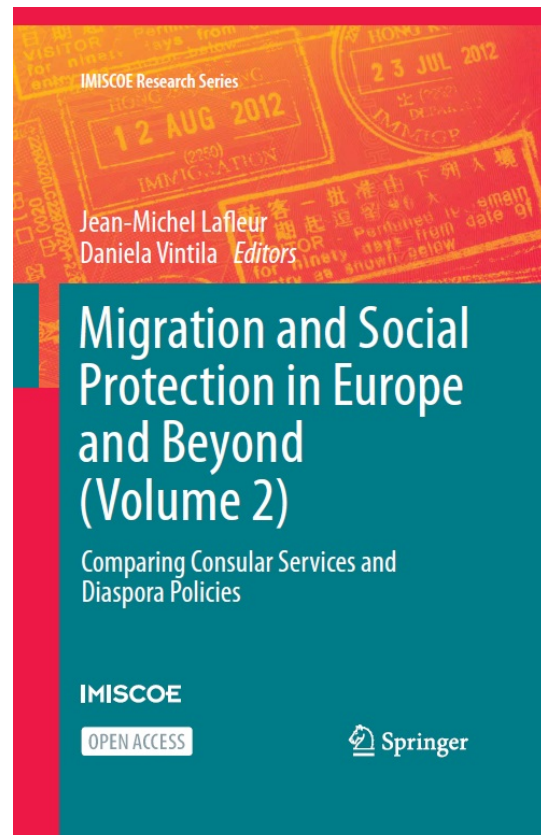
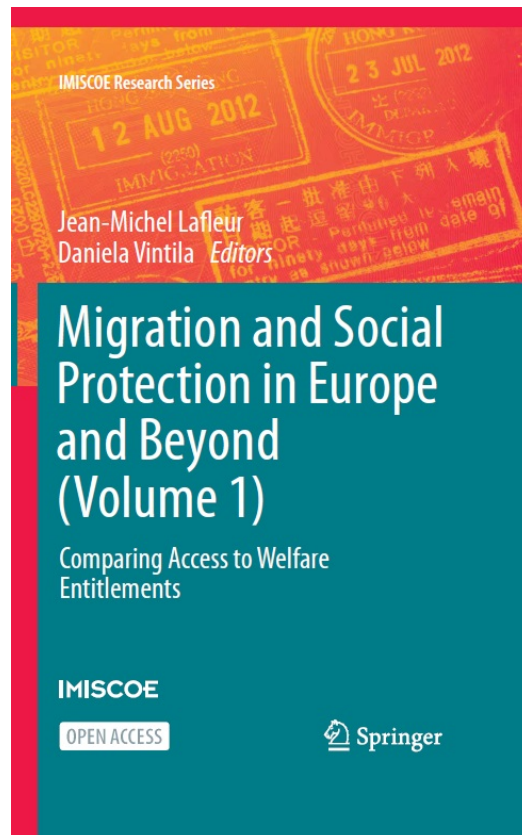
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Main findings

3 volumes in Open Access



<https://bit.ly/3bLqW1k>



I. Health care:
benefits in kind & cash



II. Unemployment benefits:
insurance & assistance



III. Old-Age pensions:
contributory & non-
contributory



IV. Family benefits:
maternity, paternity, parental
& child benefits



**V. Guaranteed minimum
resources:**
Social assistance



Data collection (April 2018- January 2019):
Survey with country experts across EU27

*I. Equal access in social policy regulations...
but important effect of immigration policies & the labour market*

- Nationality is of rather minor importance once foreigners obtain **access to employment**
- The importance of **gainful activity for contributory benefits** (generally open to all claimants on equal grounds, regardless of nationality)
- ❑ No statutory differences between nationals & foreigners in accessing sickness cash benefits, maternity, paternity, contributory pensions (although some restrictions in exportability- the case of TCNs in Belgium, Luxembourg, Lithuania)
- ❑ Some restrictions for unemployment benefits: TCNs must hold a long-term residence permits (Bulgaria, Malta); prove regular residence strictly assessed (France), or reside for several consecutive years (7 out of the past 12 in Denmark)



Yet... complying with **qualifying periods of contribution** more problematic for TCNs (higher unemployment levels, recognition of qualifications, labour market discrimination); holding a **valid work permit** sometimes after complicated procedures

II. Instances of (in)direct exclusion: TCNs' access to guaranteed minimum resources



- BE: Registration in the Belgian Population Register (after 5 years)



- Long-term or permanent residence (5 years)



- Residence permit with authorisation to work. With exceptions (refugees, permanent, “10 year” permit holders), regular & continuous residence with authorisation to work for the last 5 years



- Long-term residence or residence for min 5 years during the last 20 years



- Residence permit valid for min 1 year & intention to reside for at least a year



- All social assistance recipients must have resided 7 out of the last 8 years



- All recipients: at least 10 years of residence (the last 2 years continuously)



- Long-term residence for *Mindestsicherung*. In some Länder, proof of "willingness to integrate" (language, trainings in "Austrian values" or similar)

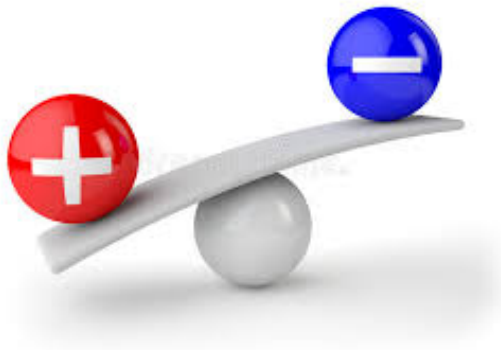
III. Instances of (in)direct exclusion: TCNs' access to non-contributory pensions

Yes, no exclusion based on claimant's nationality	Yes, but with restrictions	No, because there is no such pension scheme in the country
<p>Austria</p> <p>Bulgaria</p> <p>Cyprus, but prior residence condition for all claimants (at least 20 years of residence after the age of 40 or 35 years of residence after the age of 18)</p> <p>Estonia, but prior residence condition for all claimants (5 years)</p> <p>Finland, but waiting period for all claimants for <i>kansaneläke</i>, <i>folkpension</i> (3 years of residence after the age of 16)</p> <p>Ireland</p> <p>Romania</p> <p>Spain</p> <p>Sweden</p>	<p>Belgium (only nationals of EEA/EFTA/Switzerland & countries with which BE has a BSSA covering this specific scheme). Claimants must have resided in Belgium for at least 10 years, including at least 5 years of effective and uninterrupted residence.</p> <p>Denmark (TCNs must reside in DK at least 10 years, 5 years immediately before the pension is payable; EU & DK citizens must have resided at least 3 years; full pension after 40 years of residence)</p> <p>France (TCNs must prove having resided regularly and continuously and with an authorisation to work for at least 10 years)</p> <p>Hungary (only refugees & stateless are entitled)</p> <p>Italy (in addition to the 10 years residence required for IT and EU nationals, TCNs must have a long-term residence permit, unless they are refugees or holders of international protection)</p> <p>Latvia (only foreigners with permanent residence permit). Claimants must have resided in LV for at least 60 months (the last 12 as permanent residents).</p> <p>Lithuania (a permanent residence permit is required)</p> <p>Malta (long-term residence permits required)</p> <p>Portugal (only EEA nationals and TCNs from countries with which there is a BSSA including this pension)</p>	<p>Croatia</p> <p>Czechia</p> <p>Germany</p> <p>Greece, but the non-contributory component (National Pension) depends on 15 years of residence (full National Pension after 40 years of residence)</p> <p>Luxembourg</p> <p>Netherlands</p> <p>Poland</p> <p>Slovakia</p> <p>Slovenia</p>

IV. Instances of (in)direct exclusion: child benefits & consequences of social assistance receipt

TCNs' access to child benefits

- Residence of the child and/or parents or
- Prior residence requirements for the child/parents (3 years in Croatia, 5 years in Cyprus, 5 years in Greece, 6 months in Lithuania for temporary residence)

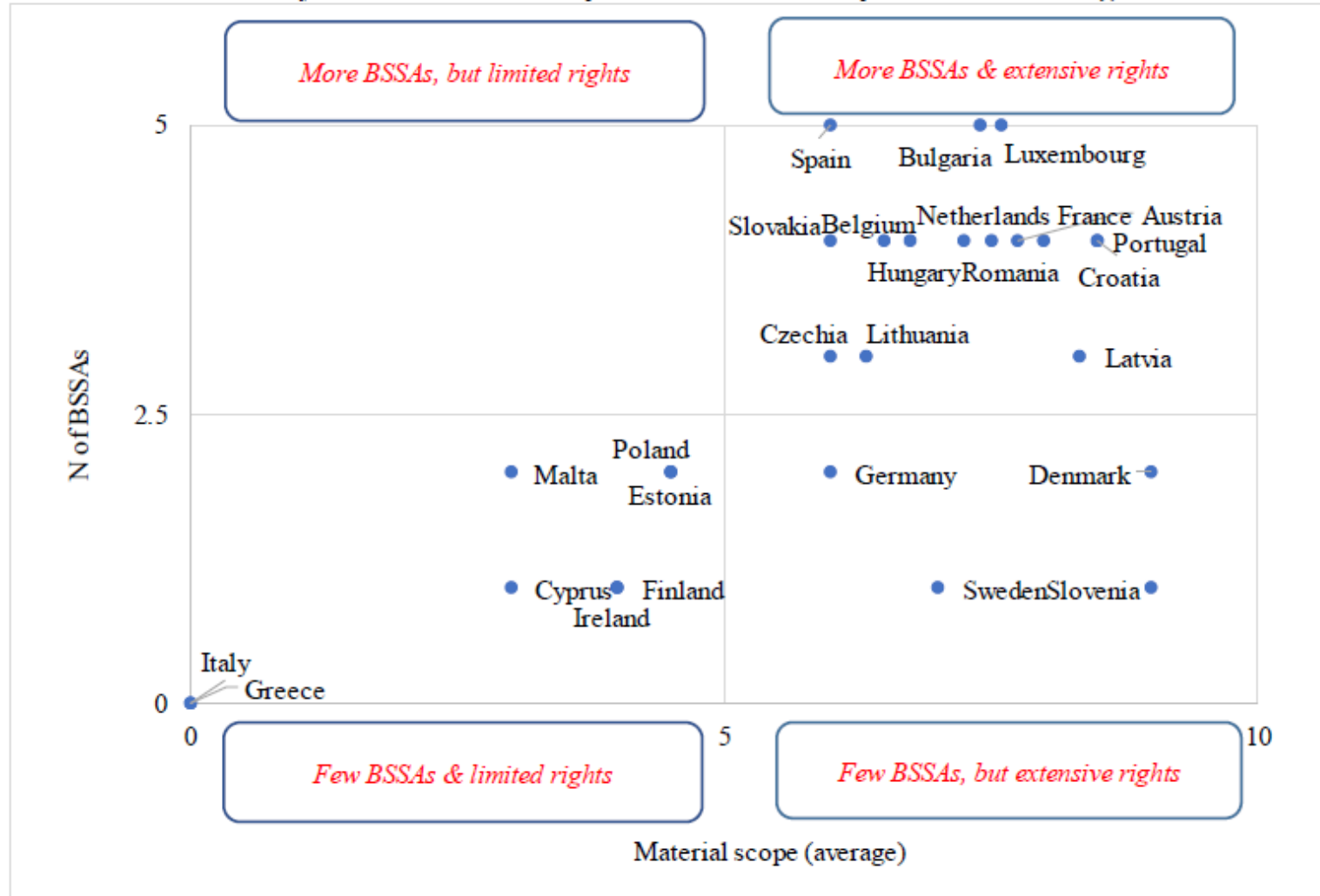


Negative consequences of the take-up of benefits even when equal treatment in eligibility conditions:

E.g.: Belgium, France, Ireland, Finland: reliance on social assistance can negatively affect the renewal of residence permits, family reunification applications, naturalisation- conditions of social integration and proving a stable income and self-sufficiency

V. Differentiated social protection: the role of Bilateral Social Security Agreements

EU Member States by N and material scope of BSSAs with top five non-EU origin countries



Source: Own elaboration based on MiTSopro BSSAs data.

Migration and Transnational Social Protection in (Post)Crisis Europe



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