



MIGRATION POLICY GROUP

Largest-ever European survey of immigrants gives big picture on long-term integration

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10 key charts and preliminary findings from 2014 EU Labour Force Survey ad hoc module

The largest survey ever of working-age immigrants and the 2nd generation in all EU countries was recently published by Eurostat, but its results have not yet been analysed for public debate. While major destination countries are currently focusing on their response to newcomer refugees and their specific needs, the EU's Labour Force Survey recent results remind the public that integration is a long-term process. Looking at the overall integration process in most countries, the majority of working-age foreign-born people are already settled long-term in the country, medium-to-high-educated, proficient in its language and, after a decade there, working and naturalised as citizens, regardless of their initial reason for migration. Progress happens from one generation to the next, as the outcomes of the 2nd generation in school and the labour market are similar to non-immigrants in the same socio-economic situation. Differences still emerge between countries, as their policies and context can either support or hinder social mobility and equality over time. Key findings are:

- *1st and 2nd generation make up 15-30% of the working-age population in most Western European countries; the 2nd generation is sizeable within the working-age population in France, UK, Belgium, Italy and Sweden*
- *Most immigrants are settled in their country (2/3 of non-EU citizens have already resided for 5+ years) and came legally as family members—not as labour or humanitarian migrants*
- *More than half of non-labour migrants (family and humanitarian migrants) are working after 10+ years in the country and their employment rates are relatively high in several countries*
- *Language proficiency is reportedly high in most countries; 2/3 of the working-age foreign-born say they are proficient or fluent, while another 10-15% report just 'basic' knowledge*
- *Employment rates generally differ little between the low-educated (non-immigrants, immigrants and the 2nd generation), while the university-educated foreign-born have greater difficulties finding a job than non-immigrants or 2nd generation (a.k.a. 'brain waste')*
- *Educational mobility for immigrants' children depends on the country; In several, the 2nd generation is just as – if not more – likely to attain a university degree as non-immigrants and at least half of those born to low-educated parents end up with a higher degree*
- *Despite its many proven benefits for integration, access to citizenship diverges significantly across the EU for eligible long-settled residents, refugees and the 2nd generation, largely due to differences in ordinary naturalisation procedures and birthright citizenship entitlements*

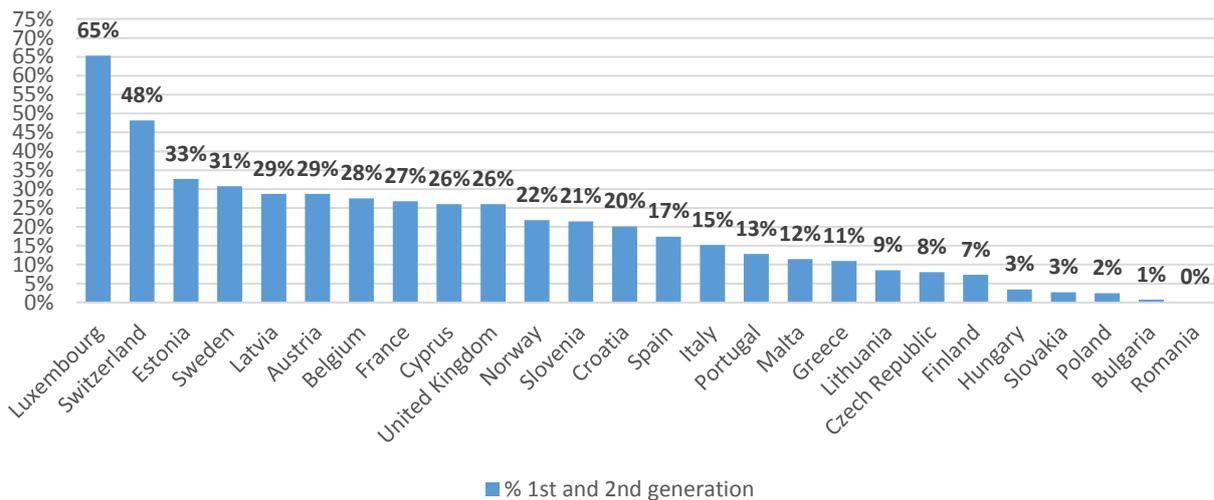
1. Introduction

The EU Labour Force Survey (LFS) is the best source on immigrant employment in Europe.ⁱ Its 2014 ad hoc module addressed the labour market situation of migrants and their descendants.ⁱⁱ The data quality and sample size of immigrants improved compared to a similar 2008 module. Key immigrant-related questions were added on the 2nd generation (may be included in core LFS), parents' education level and self-reported language skills, job over-qualification and obstacles on job hunt.

648,340 interviews were conducted for the ad hoc module's variables covering the foreign-born, 2nd generation (born to 1 or 2 foreign-born parent(s)) and non-immigrants (born to 2 native-born parents). Eurostat recently published the ad hoc module's evaluation reportⁱⁱⁱ and added the data to its interactive database on migrant integration indicators.^{iv} For most variables, response rates were acceptably high (>85%) in most countries. Unfortunately, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Iceland and Turkey chose not to participate in the agreement for this module. This preliminary summary uses the publically available data to provide key findings and charts that are not available in the EU's annual 'Zaragoza' integration indicators.^v The report uses the most reliable data and dropped data marked as 'low reliability' from Eurostat. It focuses on the foreign-born, as data is often not reported for the non-EU-born and limited for non-EU citizens. The data was last accessed on 22 February 2016.

2. Recognising Europe as a continent of immigration

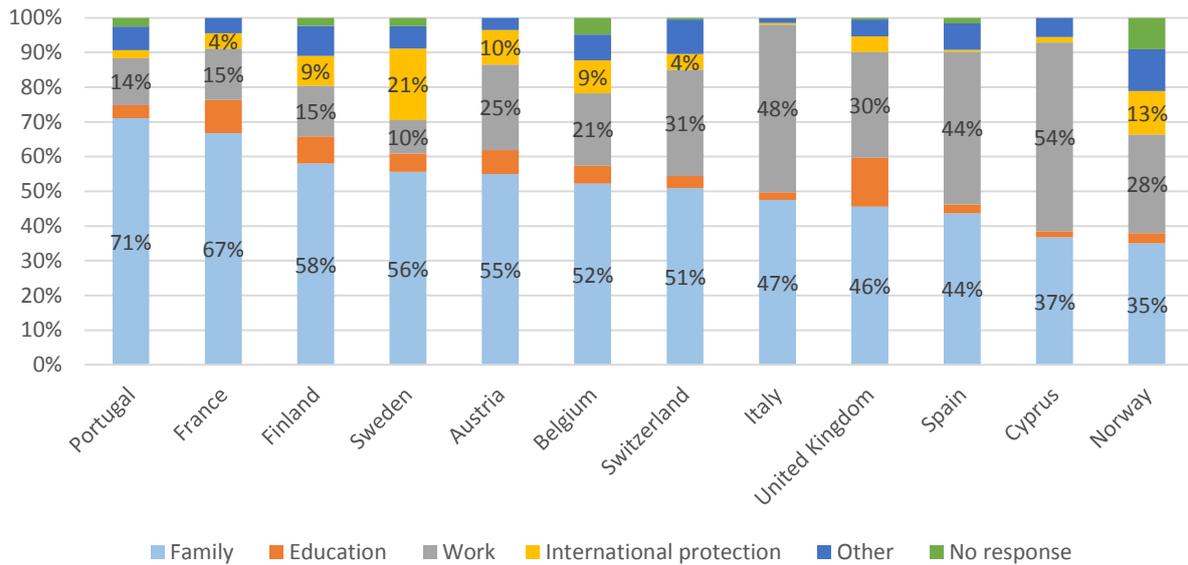
Chart 1: Share of immigrants and immediate descendants within the working age population (ages 15-64)



Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14pcobp)

- 1 in 3 working-age people in FR, SE, EE and LV have at least 1 foreign-born parent
- Levels reach 1 in 4 in AT, BE, CY, UK and nearly 1 in 5 in ES, GR and IT
- 1st and 2nd generation make up a smaller share of working-age population than in traditional global destination countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand), but similar to the USA^{vi}
- 2nd generation is rather large in BE, FR, SE and UK but young & small in newer destinations^{vii}
- In most of Central Europe, very few people have even 1 parent born outside the country's current territory. These few are mostly long-settled co-ethnics from neighbouring countries

Chart 2: First generation (aged 15-64) by reason for migration

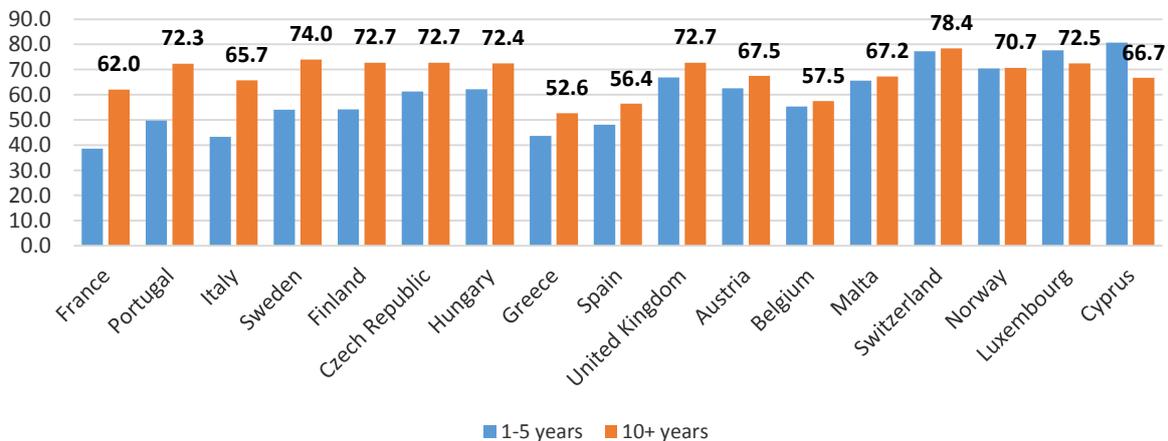


Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14b1dr)

- Family reunification is the main reason for migration for the foreign-born in most countries
- In 2014, humanitarian migrants accounted for a relatively small number of all working-age foreign-born people, with larger shares in BE (9%), FI (9%), AT (10%), NO (13%) and SE (21%)
- Hardly any of the foreign-born in the EU had come to study, except in FR (10%) and UK (14%)

3. Rising employment rates over time and generations

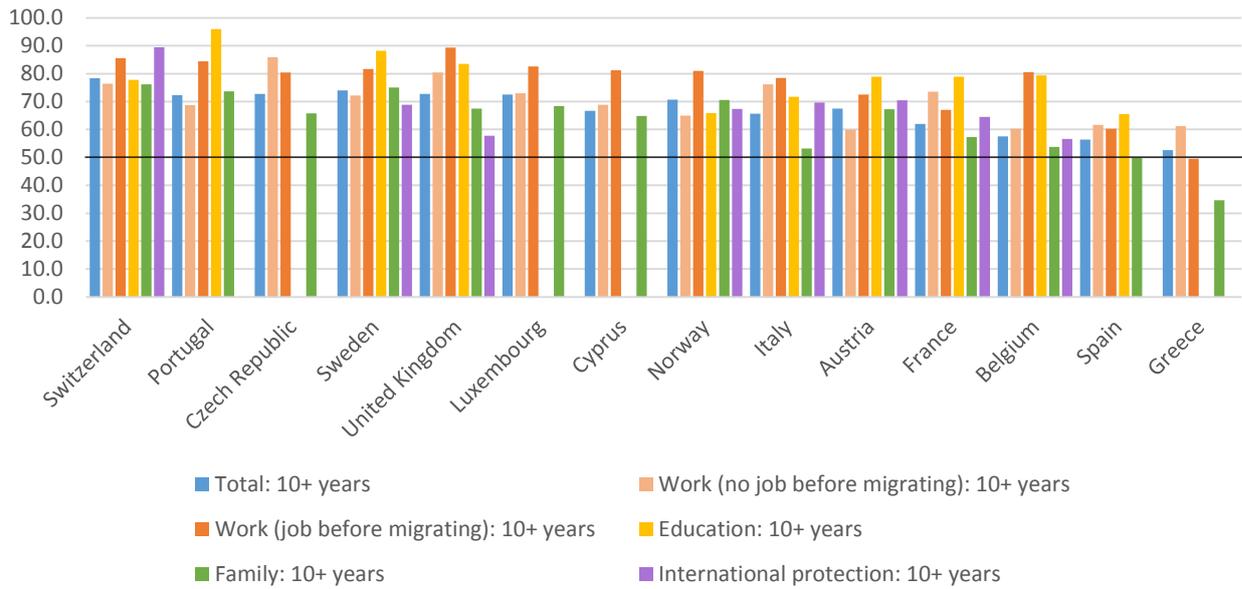
Chart 3: Employment rates (newcomers vs. very long-settled) for foreign-born adults (ages 20-64)



Note: Data labels refer to the rate (%) for long-settled (10+ years); Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14l1empr)

- Employment rates are rather low (50-60%) for working-age newcomers (1-5 years) but high (65-75%) for very long-settled immigrants (10+ years), especially in CH, SE, FI, CZ, UK, HU, PT
- This improvement between cohorts is greatest in FR, FI, SE and in Southern & Central Europe
- Employment rates are similar or slightly lower for the very long-settled in countries where labour migration and newcomer employment rates are high (CY, LU, MT, NO, CH)

Chart 4: Employment rates for very long-settled by reason for migration



Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14l1empr)

- Employment rates in several countries are relatively high (>65%) for very long-settled family members and humanitarian migrants (e.g. in CH, SE, NO, AT)
- In all legal immigration categories, at least half are working after 10+ years in the country, except for family migrants in GR (~50% for family in IT & ES & family/humanitarian in BE)

Chart 5a: Employment rate for low-educated (ISCED 0-2) aged 20-64

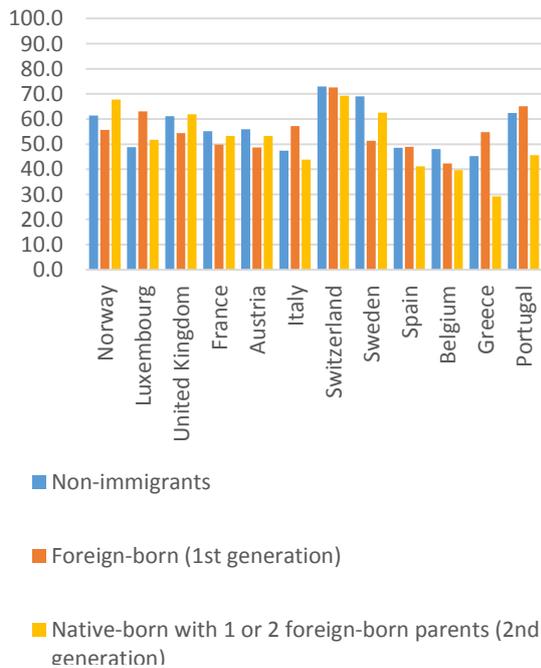
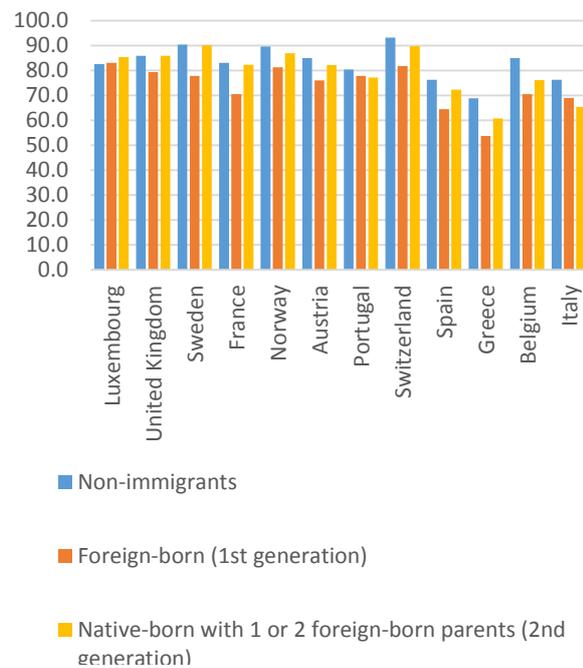


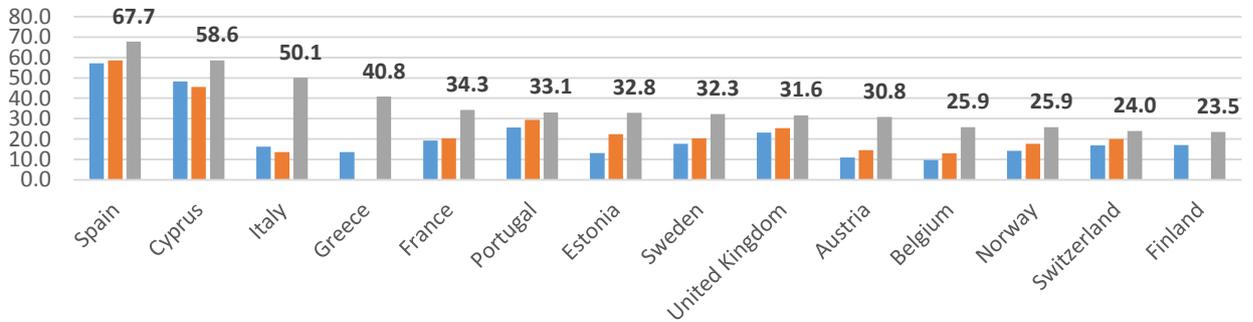
Chart 5b: Employment rate for high-educated (IESCD 5-8) aged 20-64



Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14l1empr)

- Among the low-educated, employment rates generally low and differ little between non-immigrants, the foreign-born or the 2nd generation, while rates seem to increase from the 1st-to-2nd generation among the low-educated in AT, FR, NO, SE and UK^{viii}
- Tertiary-educated 2nd generation & non-immigrants usually attain similarly high employment rates (except in Southern Europe as noted earlier and BE), whereas the foreign-born with tertiary (usually foreign) degrees face greater difficulties to find a job in most countries

Chart 6: Tertiary-educated workers (aged 20-64) self-declaring as over-qualified for their job

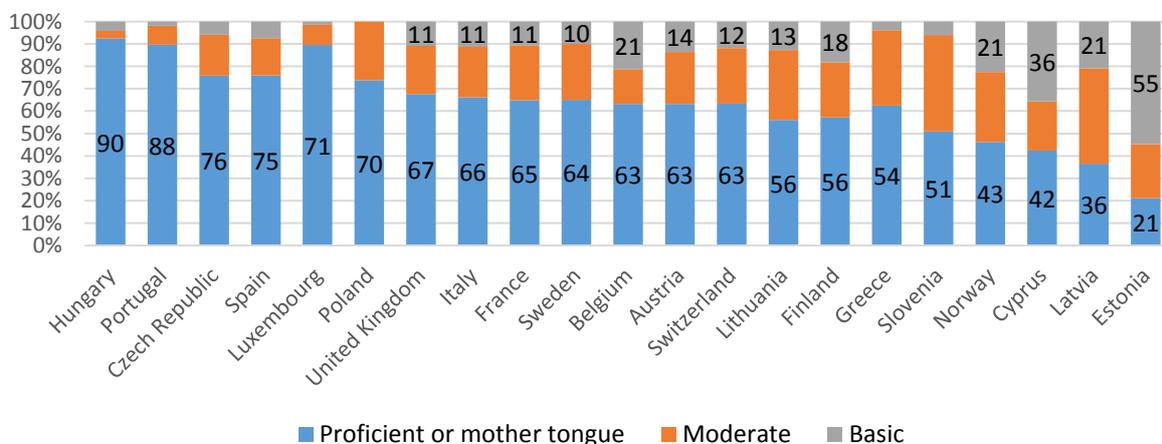


Note: Data labels refer to the over-qualification rate for 1st generation; Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14loq)

- Foreign-born with tertiary (usually foreign) degrees who do find jobs are also more likely to feel over-qualified for their job than are tertiary-educated non-immigrants or 2nd generation
- As one indicator of this 'brain waste', ≈20% of the tertiary educated foreign-born in GR, ES, IT, CY (an estimated 200,000 people) are working in elementary occupations (e.g. cleaners, helpers, manual labourers)^{ix} compared to <2% of tertiary-educated non-immigrants

4. Education & social inclusion: investments in skills and equality

Chart 7: Self-assessed skills in national language

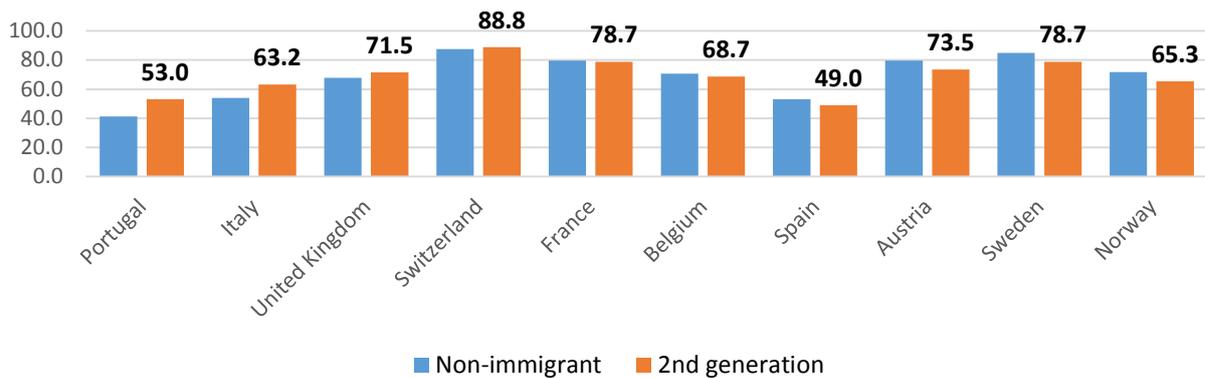


Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14blang)

- In most EU countries, nearly 2 out of 3 working-age immigrants say that they are proficient or mother tongue speakers of (one of) the country's national language(s)

- Self-declared language proficiency is not only high in countries with immigration mostly from former colonies (PT, ES, UK, FR), neighbours (LU, BE, CH) or co-ethnic communities (e.g. Central Europe), but also in countries with linguistically diverse immigration (IT, SE, AT, FI)
- In most countries, a significant minority (10-20%) of working-age immigrants say that they only have basic skills in the national language (21% in BE, LV, NO, 36% in CY, 55% in EE); These levels are higher among non-EU citizens (25-33% in most countries, 2/3 in CY and EE)
- >50% of immigrants have attended language courses in SE, NO, LU and FI (25-33% in AT, BE, EE, CH);^x Eurostat observes that there is a likely unfulfilled need for language courses in most of Southern Europe (except PT), affecting at least 1 in 3 immigrants in these countries

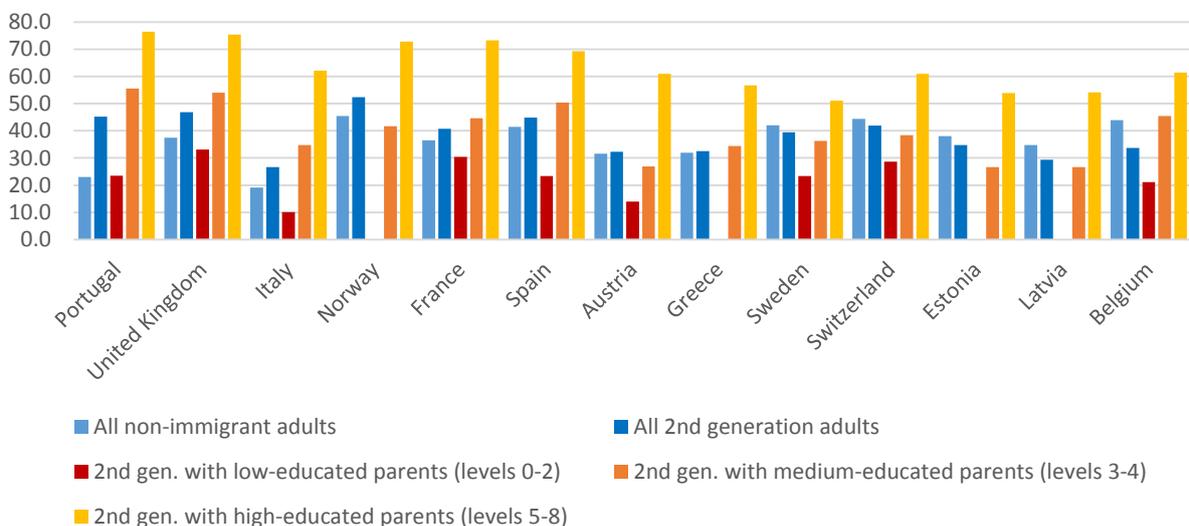
Chart 8: Share of adults (aged 25-54), born to low-educated (ISCED 0-2) parents, who attained secondary or tertiary education (ISCED 3-8)



Note: Data labels refer to the situation of the 2nd generation; Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14beduc)

- Whether or not educational mobility happens for the 2nd generation depends on the country
- ‘Basic’ upward mobility: In most countries, 2/3 to 3/4 of people born there to low-educated immigrant or non-immigrant parents end up completing a secondary or tertiary degree
- This ‘basic’ mobility is less common in Southern Europe and small gaps emerge in AT, SE, NO

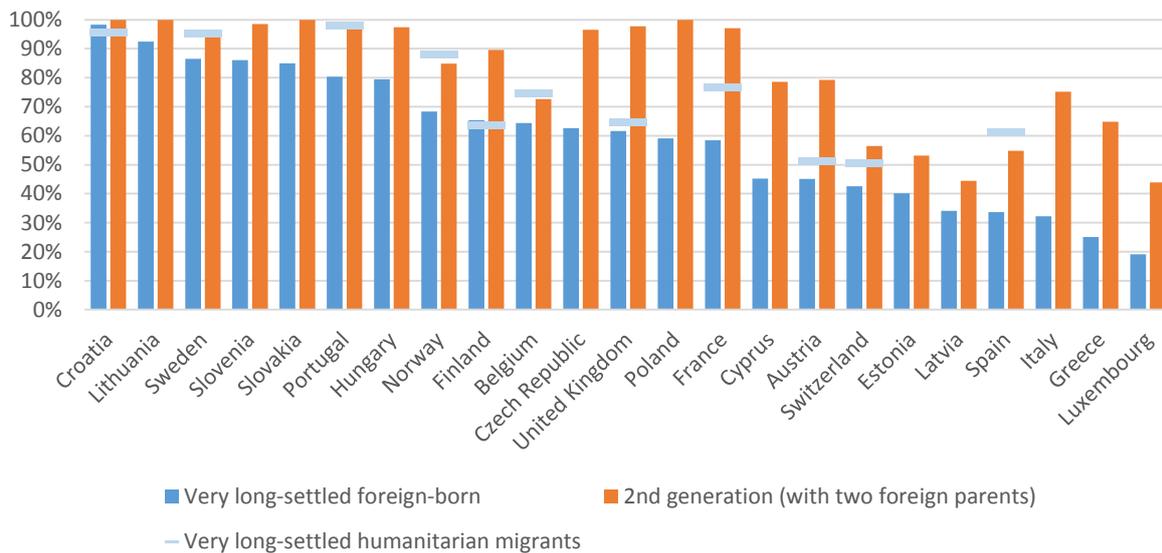
Chart 9: Share of tertiary-educated among adults (25-54) by parents' education level



Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14beduc)

- The 2nd generation is just as likely – if not more likely – to attain a tertiary degree as non-immigrants in most countries (UK, FR, AT, Nordics, CH, Southern Europe except EE, LV & BE)
- Upward mobility is marked in FR and UK, where a tertiary degree is attained by 1/3 of the 2nd gen. born to low-educated parents and ≈1/2 of those born to medium-educated parents
- Downward educational mobility ('brain waste') also occurs for the 2nd generation, more so than for non-immigrants; For example, in BE, SE, and Southern Europe, the 2nd generation with tertiary-educated parents are less likely to attain a tertiary degree than non-immigrants

Chart 10: Share of national citizens among very long-settled (10+ years) residents and humanitarian migrants and among 2nd generation with two foreign-born parents



- Due to gaps in national rules, large numbers of 2nd generation adults lack the citizenship of their country of birth and the greater opportunities that it brings for integration (≈1 in 4 in AT, BE, CY, IT; 1 in 3 in GR; and 1 in 2 or less in ES, CH, EE, LV, LU)
- Restrictive ordinary naturalisation policies exclude many eligible long-settled (10+ years) immigrants & refugees (<1/2 in CY, AT, CH, EE, 1 in 3 in LV, ES, IT; 1 in 4 in GR & 1 in 5 in LU)
- Among major destination countries, most very long-settled immigrants have become citizens in inclusive democracies like PT & SE (≥80%) and, to a lesser extent, BE, FI, NO & UK (≈2/3)
- Most foreign-born in Central Europe have secured citizenship due to historical/ethnic links

ⁱ See Reichel, D. 'Part II: Data Assessment' in Niessen, J. et al. (2013), Using EU Indicators of Immigrant Integration Report prepared for the European Commission, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/legal-migration/general/docs/final_report_on_using_eu_indicators_of_immigrant_integration_june_2013_en.pdf

ⁱⁱ For more on the module, see http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_-_ad_hoc_modules

ⁱⁱⁱ For extended data tables, click on 2014: Migration and labour market (lfso_14)

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/migrant-integration/data/database>

^{iv} Click here for the evaluation report,

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984/6037334/Evaluation_report_AHM_2014.pdf

^v See http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migrant_integration_statistics_-_overview

^{vi} See OECD/European Union (2015), Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015: Settling In, OECD Publishing, Paris, page 17 or <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933212017>

Annex 1: Estimated size of 1st and 2nd generation in the working-age population (aged 15-64) measured in thousands

	1st generation (foreign born)	2nd generation (1 or 2 foreign-born parents)	Total estimate
Spain	4,737	603	5,339.7
Cyprus	130	19	148.9
Italy	5,002	954	5,955.7
Greece	648	126	773.2
Luxembourg	183	60	243.1
Finland	191	65	256.4
Portugal	620	254	874.8
Malta	23	10	32.5
Austria	1,109	521	1,630.0
United Kingdom	6,906	3,795	10,700.3
Sweden	1,200	688	1,888.1
Bulgaria	23	13	36.1
Belgium	1,201	802	2,003.1
Hungary	130	99	228.5
Romania	12	12	24.3
Slovenia	152	149	300.3
Croatia	278	292	569.5
France	4,952	5,694	10,645.4
Czech Republic	244	324	567.5
Lithuania	63	104	166.9
Estonia	97	184	281.3
Latvia	125	247	372.7
Slovakia	31	73	103.5
Poland	80	531	610.9

Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14pcobp)

viii Southern Europe's lower rates for 2nd generation may be partly explained by differences in the age structure.

ix Annex 2: Estimated number of tertiary-educated workers in elementary occupations (measured in thousands)

	Estimate of tertiary-educated foreign-born working in elementary occupations (thousands)	As share of tertiary-educated foreign-born working in country (thousands)	Share of tertiary-educated non-immigrants working in elementary occupations
Belgium	17.6	8.3%	0.7%
Greece	7.6	22.7%	0.5%
Spain	103.2	17.2%	2.1%
Italy	72.8	21.8%	0.3%
Cyprus	5.5	19.2%	1.0%
Austria	15.1	7.7%	0.7%
United Kingdom	108.6	5.1%	1.9%
Norway	7.5	4.4%	0.3%

Source: EU 2014 LFS ad hoc module (lfso_14leeow)

x See univariate distribution of LANGCOUR in: Eurostat (2015), The labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants: Evaluation of the 2014 labour force survey ad hoc module, Luxembourg, Page 78. Note that high non-response rates for FR, GR and NO means the data should be used with care and the question was problematic in countries with several official languages.