

7° Eurostat User Conference, 26 March 2021

Accessing Household Benefits across Europe
**Is Migration Neutrality
reached over time ?**

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Literature of Reference

Economics of Migrations

Welfare magnet, fiscal impact and use of welfare

(Nyman & Ahlskog 2018; Huber & Oberdabernig 2016; Zimmerman et al. 2012)

Comparative Welfare Studies

Survey data to analyse beneficiaries

Poverty-reducing capacity of welfare regimes

(Van Oorschot 2013; Eugster 2018; Hooijer & Picot 2015)

Migration Neutrality

(Recchi 2016)

Research questions

*Is migration neutrality reached **over time**?*

*Is migration neutrality more likely found
in **more generous welfare states**?*

Intra-EU mobility as a case of study
(Social Security Coordination System)

The Research Hypotheses

- H1) Migration neutrality is more likely for *Long-term Migrants* (≥ 5 years) compared to the *Newly Arrived* (< 5 years)
- H2) Migration neutrality is more likely for *Second Generation Migrants* compared to the *First Generation (Long-term Migrants)*
- H3) Migration neutrality is more likely for *Nordic Countries*, intermediate for *Continental* and *Liberal Countries* while lower for *Southern Countries*

Methodology

Dependent variable: household benefits (either family or housing)

Independent variable:

migrant status

- Native households
- Newly arrived (< 5 years)
- Long-term (> 5 years)
- 2nd generation migrants

} Intra-EU
households

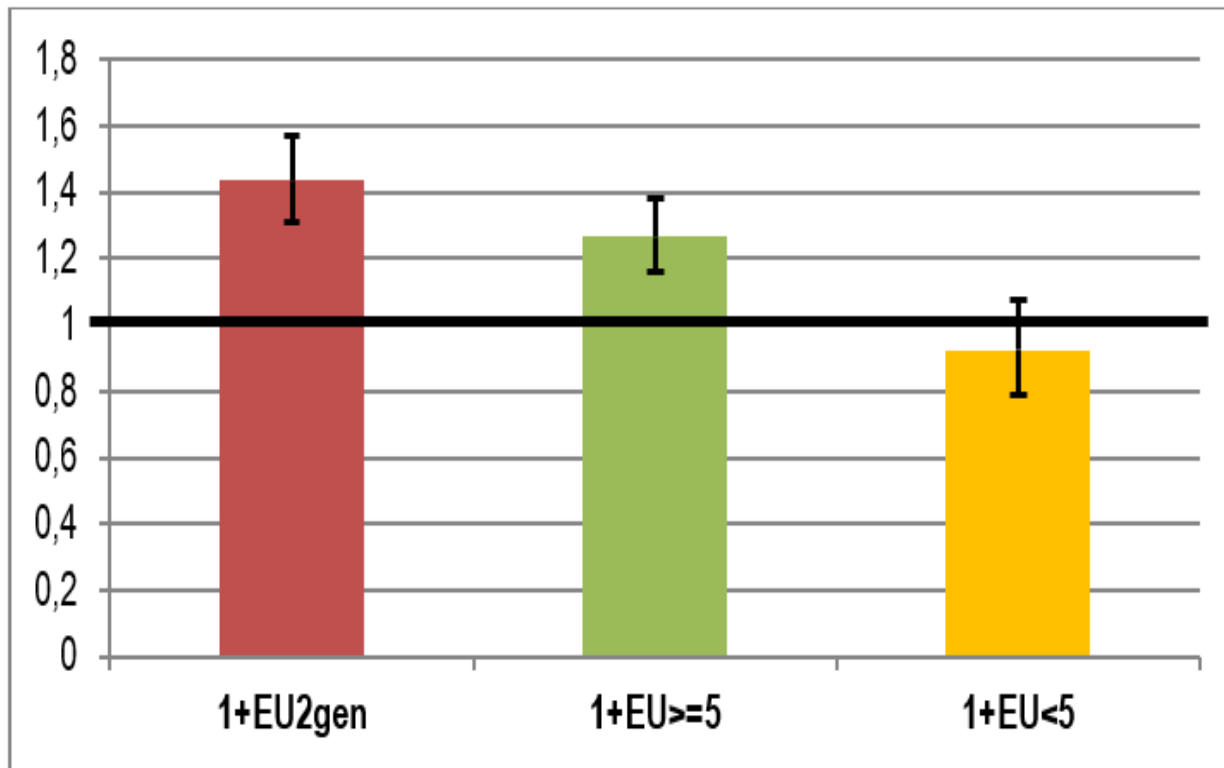
Control variables: age, gender, education, employment status, household structure (no children; single parent; 1-2 children; 3+children)

Welfare regimes: Continental (AT, BL, FR, NH, CH), Nordic (FI, NO, SW), Liberal (IR, UK) and Southern European (IT, ES)

Data: EU-SILC 2011 wave

Migration Neutrality over Time: 1) Odds ratios

$$\text{Prob. } \hat{y} \text{ (Household Benefit)} = \beta_1 \text{ Migrant Status}$$

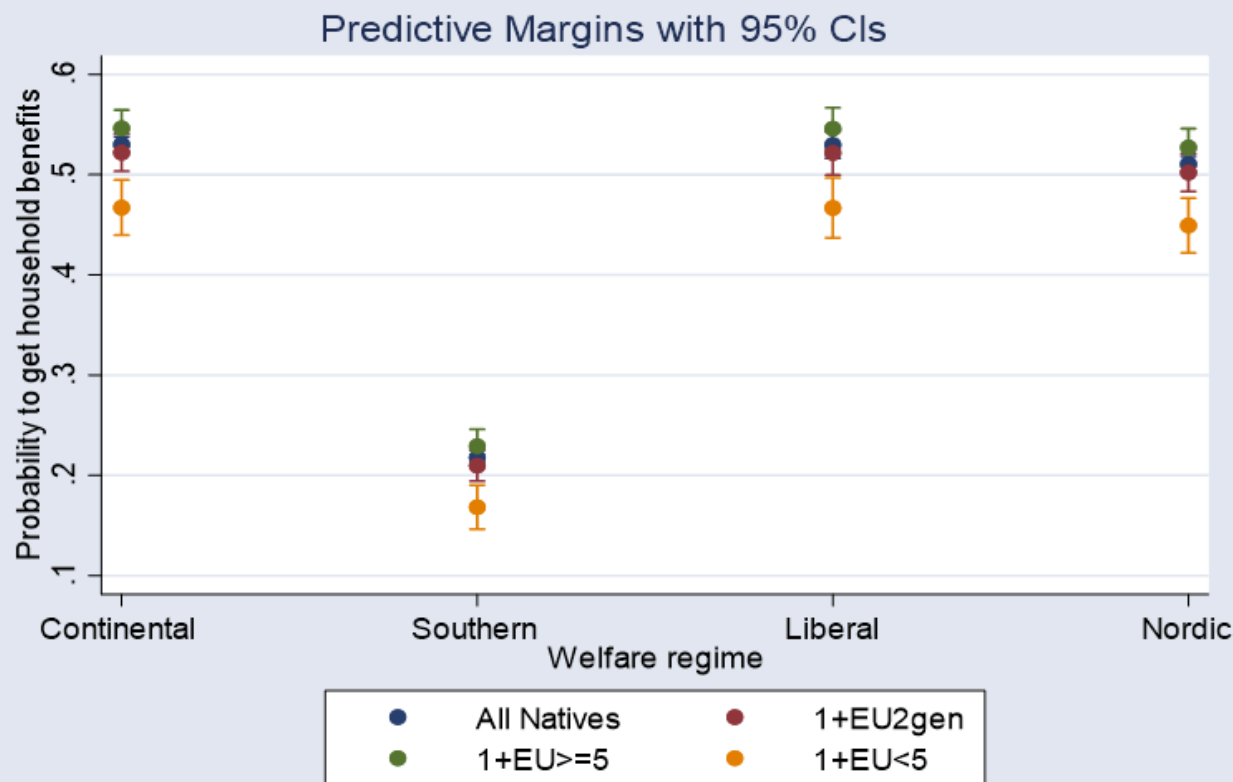


- Gradual increase of access with length of residence
- No difference between 2^o generation and long-term migrants
- Migration neutrality for the newly arrived

1= Migration Neutrality between migrants and natives; >1= migrants have higher access to benefits than natives; <1= migrants have lower access to benefits than natives. EU-SILC 2011 sample, all the 12 countries together, with filter for age 18-65. Odds ratios of logit regression on household benefits (dummy dependent variable) for the 3 migrant groups (independent variable). Reference category: natives in 12 countries. Confident Intervals are set at 95% significance level.

2) Probability controlled for socio-economic characteristics

$$\text{Prob. } \hat{y} (\text{Household Benefit}) = \beta_1 \text{Migrant Status} + \beta_2 \text{Gender} + \beta_3 \text{Education} + \\ + \beta_4 \text{Age} + \beta_5 \text{Employment Status} + \beta_6 \text{Household Structure} + \beta_7 \text{Welfare Regime} + \varepsilon$$



- 2^o generation and long-term migrants have the same probability of natives
- Newly arrived migrants have lower access compared to the other groups
- Reduced access in Southern Europe

EU-SILC 2011 sample integrated with ad hoc module on Generations. 12 countries selected, with filter for age 18-65. Predicted probabilities from binary logit regression on household benefits (dummy dependent variable equal to 1 when the household receives either family benefits or social housing) for natives and 3 migrant household groups (2nd generation, 1st generation long term and newly arrived). Control variables: gender, age, level of education and employment status referred to the head of the household, plus the household structure and the welfare regime. Confident intervals are set at 95% significance level. The full regression is shown in the Annex.

Discussion

- ✓ H1) Migration neutrality is more likely for *Long-term Migrants* (≥ 5 years) compared to the *Newly Arrived* (< 5 years); CONFIRMED once controlled for compositional factors, migration neutrality reached after 5 years (lower benefit access before 5 years)

- X H2) Migration neutrality is more likely for *Second Generation Migrants* compared to the *First Generation, Long-term Migrants*; NOT CONFIRMED no significant difference between the first generation (≥ 5 years) and the second generation

- X H3) Migration neutrality is more likely for *Nordic Countries*, intermediate for *Continental* and *Liberal Countries* while lower for *Southern Countries*. NOT CONFIRMED because of the same distance between the 3 groups of migrants and natives cross-country

Conclusion

*Once controlled for socio-demographic characteristics,
migration neutrality is reached after 5 years*

Welfare **generosity does not mean inclusiveness** for migrants, thus need for adjusted typologies and criteria as suggested by Eugster (2018) and Hooijer and Picot (2015)

In **Southern EU** both migrants and natives present a lower access to benefits compared to the other welfare regimes. A familistic model of welfare goes along with a higher reliance on family resources rather than household benefits.

Policy implications

The access to welfare in Europe is **not migration neutral** !

The **progressive approach** of Directive 2004/38/CE prevails over the immediate approach of Social Security Regulation 883/2004

Verschueren (2007)

Even in case that migrants are attracted by social benefits (**welfare magnet hypothesis**) they are less likely to access them during the first five years

Main references

- Eugster B. (2018), *Immigrants and Poverty, and Conditionality on Immigrants' Social Rights*, Journal of European Social Policy, Vol. 00(0) pp. 1-19
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Thank for your attention

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Descriptive statistics

	All Natives	1+EU2gen	1+EU>=5	1+EU<5	Total
Continental	35,548	4,448	4,043	910	44,949
Southern	41,268	632	1,516	526	43,942
Liberal	10,034	712	1,420	327	12,493
Nordic	18,730	482	868	655	20,735
Total	105,580	6,274	7,847	2,418	122,119

	Natives	2°gen	1°>=5	1°<5	Total
% Female	9.4	13.3	11.5	8.9	9.8
Average Age	42.0	41.9	42.8	38.6	42.8
% Up to Lower Secondary	27.8	15.9	23.0	25.1	26.9
% High School Diploma	40.2	46.1	38.6	37.0	40.3
% Tertiary Degree	32.0	38.0	38.4	38.0	32.8
% Working	79.8	84.2	76.1	77.7	79.7
% Unemployed/Inactive	13.8	11.7	17.0	18.1	14.0
% Retired	6.4	4.1	6.9	4.2	6.3
% No children	57.3	57.0	54.5	54.8	57.0
% Single parent	2.1	4.0	2.0	1.2	2.2
% 2 parents, 1 or 2 children	35.3	34.2	37.3	38.9	35.5
% 2 parents, 3+ children	5.3	4.8	6.2	5.1	5.3
Total	105580	6274	7847	2418	122119