

Migration Observatory

The Migration Observatory is a Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano (LdA) - Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto (CCA) joint research initiative, which has been funded by the Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo since 2016. The main objective is to study analytically topical issues on migration, such as the implications of different migration policies from an international and cross-disciplinary perspective. Also, it aims to construct a critical mass of academic knowledge in order to increase the visibility of CCA and LdA in the policy debate. The Migration Observatory activities are organised in collaboration with FIERI. The 2025 Annual Conference is co-organised with FIERI and CEPR. For further information please refer to: <https://dagliano.unimi.it/migration-observatory/>

Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano

The Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano was founded in Turin in 1986 by the family of Luca d'Agliano, his friends, and some of his teachers. It is currently located at the Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto in Torino and at the University of Milan. It is a non-profit research institution contributing original research in the field of international and development economics. Particular emphasis is placed on the training of young scholars and in giving them the opportunity of acquiring a truly international perspective. The activities of the Centro Studi mainly focus on academic research, but it also greatly contributes to the policy debate.

Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto

The Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto is a foundation created in 2004 as a joint initiative of the Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and the University of Torino. Its mission is to foster research and high education in the social sciences, in accordance with the values and practices of the international academic community, through a threefold action plan: the production of first-rate research in Economics, Public Policy, Social Sciences and Law; the provision of top-level undergraduate and graduate education in the above disciplines; the contribution to the public policy debate.

FIERI

FIERI is an independent research institute on migration, mobility and integration. Since its foundation in 2001, it is strongly committed to a comparative and interdisciplinary approach to the study of the social and political transformations associated with growing population mobility and cultural diversity. FIERI is actively engaged in European and international networks and, at the same time, deeply rooted in the Italian context also through proactive interactions with policy, media and civil society.

CEPR

Established in 1983, CEPR is an independent, non-partisan, pan-European non-profit organization. Its mission is to enhance the quality of policy decisions through providing policy-relevant research, based soundly in economic theory, to policymakers, the private sector and civil society.

Annual Conferences, Reports Presentations, and Panel Discussions

- Ninth Annual Conference: "Immigrant Exploitation and Policy-Induced Uncertainty", 24th March 2025;
- Eighth Annual Conference: "Immigrant Integration around the World", 22nd March 2024;
- Seventh Annual Conference: "Immigration and Citizenship", 17th March 2023;
- "Donne migranti nel mercato del lavoro europeo", Festival Internazionale dell'Economia di Torino, 2nd June 2023;
- Sixth Annual Conference: "Gender and Migration", 14th March 2022;
- Fifth Annual Conference: "Immigration and COVID-19", 12th February 2021 (online);
- Fourth Annual Conference: "The Drivers and Consequences of Migration Restrictions and Border Enforcement", 21st February 2020;
- Third Annual Conference: "Immigrants' Long-Term Integration Outcomes", 1st February 2019;
- "L'integrazione economica degli immigrati in Italia e in Europa", 22nd February 2018;
- Second Annual Conference: "International Migration and Development", 24th November 2017;
- First Annual Conference: "Migration Policy Challenges: from New Arrivals to Naturalization", 3rd February 2017.

Seminars

Leah Platt Boustan (Princeton University) on "Intergenerational mobility of immigrants in 15 destination countries", jointly organised with Bocconi University), 3rd December 2024; Michal Burzynski (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research): "Natives Sorting and the Impact of Immigration on European Labor Markets", 27 November 2024; Yujung Hwang (Johns Hopkins University): "Structural Analysis of Xenophobia", 22nd November 2023; Cevat Aksoy (King's College London): "Corruption Exposure, Political Trust, and Immigrants", 19th September 2023; Mette Foged (University of Copenhagen): "Access to Language Training and the Local Integration of Refugees", 15th March 2023; Matti Sarvimäki (Aalto University): "Intergenerational Spillovers of Integration Policies: Evidence from Finland's Integration Plans", 13th September 2022; Christina Felfe (University of Würzburg): "On the Early Origins of In-Group Bias", 29th September 2021; Felix Weinhardt (European University Viadrina): "Immigration and the Evolution of Local Cultural Norms", 22nd September 2021; Leah Boustan (Princeton University): "Streets of Gold: Immigration and the American Dream Over Two Centuries", 18th November 2020 (webinar); Sandra Rozo (Marshall School of Business of USC): "Give Me Your Tired and Your Poor: Impact of a Large-Scale Amnesty Program for Undocumented Refugees", 3rd November 2020 (webinar); Simon Gorlach (Bocconi University): "Borrowing Constraints, Migrant Selection, and the Dynamics of Return and Repeat Migration", 29th October 2019; Samuel Bazzi (Boston University): "Deterring Illegal Entry: Migrant Sanctions and Recidivism in Border Apprehensions", 24th October 2019; Albrecht Glitz (Universität Pompeu Fabra): "Labor Market Competition and the Assimilation of Immigrants", 27th November 2018; Irma Clots Figueras (University Carlos III de Madrid): "Leader Identity and Coordination Failure", 21st November 2017; Matthias Parey (University of Essex): "Diverted Dreams: Estimating the Effect of Assignment to Higher Education Institutions", 31st October 2017; Jan Stuhler (Universidad Carlos III Madrid): "Shift-Share Instruments and the Impact of Immigration", 18th October 2016.



CENTRO STUDI LUCA D'AGLIANO

MIGRATION OBSERVATORY

Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano and
Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto

in collaboration with FIERI and CEPR



The activities of the Migration Observatory are supported by



Fondazione
Compagnia
di San Paolo

Migration Observatory Ninth Annual Report

In the first part of the report, we use data from the latest edition of the European Labour Force Survey (2023) to provide a concise, easily accessible and up-to-date source of reference regarding the size, characteristics, and relative economic performance of immigrants in Europe.

In the second part, instead, we shift our focus to their native-born descendants – commonly referred to as second-generation immigrants. We assess their demographic profile, educational attainment, employment outcomes, and the role of citizenship in shaping their labour market integration.

We show that while second-generation immigrants fare better than the first generations in many respects, significant disparities persist compared to natives with native-born parents.

Key findings

I: Immigrant integration in 2023

- In 2023, immigrants account for 12.6% of the total European population. Most of them (50.3 million) live in a EU14 country, where the share of immigrants in the population is 15%.
- Immigrant concentration is heterogeneous across countries. Among them, about one in five immigrants (18%) living in a European country had emigrated within the previous five years, whereas in 2022, this share was 16.5%. Among the countries with more than 1% of immigrants in the population, only the Netherlands, Portugal, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Malta and Poland have this share above 25%.
- Immigrants have a lower employment probability than natives: on average, across Europe, they are 9 percentage points less likely to be employed than natives. The employment probability gap is essentially stable with respect to 2022. Employment gaps are more sizable in central and northern European countries and smaller in Italy, the Czech Republic and Cyprus.
- Immigrants are considerably more likely than natives to be employed in low-pay and low-status occupations, even after accounting for differences in personal characteristics such as education. The concentration in elementary occupations is higher for non-EU than for EU immigrants, and the share of non-EU immigrants in elementary occupations does not significantly change with years since migration. Differences in individual characteristics between immigrants and natives can explain only a small part of the occupational disadvantage of immigrants. They account for about 22%

of the differential probability of having an elementary occupation and 35.5% of the differential probability of working in one of the three highest-paid occupational categories.

II: Second generation immigrants in Europe

- In 2023, second-generation immigrants accounted for 4% of the European population aged 0-74, with an additional 5% having a mixed background (one foreign-born and one native-born parent). These shares are higher in EU14 countries, where second-generation immigrants make up 6% of the population.
- The largest concentrations of second-generation immigrants are found in Luxembourg (10%), Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland (8%), and Austria and France (7%). In contrast, their presence remains marginal (below 1%) in most Central and Eastern European countries.
- Second-generation immigrants are significantly younger than both first-generation immigrants and natives. Their average age in EU14 countries is 24, compared to 42 for first-generation immigrants and 41 for natives.
- Among working-age individuals (25-64), second-generation immigrants are 6 percentage points less likely than natives to attain tertiary education. This disadvantage increases to 9 percentage points when accounting for differences in age and gender. Additionally, in EU14 they are 5 percentage points more likely than natives to have low education.
- Across the EU14, second-generation immigrants are 5 percentage points less likely to be employed than natives. The employment gap is particularly large in Belgium, France, and the Netherlands. In contrast, in Luxembourg, Norway, and Portugal, second-generation immigrants are more likely than natives to be employed. Differences in age, gender, and education do not fully explain the employment gap, suggesting that other factors linked to their immigration background play a role.
- Among individuals aged 15-29, second-generation immigrants have a NEET rate 2 percentage points higher than natives, meaning they are 20% more likely to be neither in work nor education.
- In 2023, 75% of second-generation immigrants in Europe held the citizenship of their country of residence. This share is higher (77%) for second-generation migrants of non-EU origin than for those of EU origin (70%).
- Second-generation immigrants who are citizens of their country of birth are 3 percentage points more likely to be employed than their non-naturalised counterparts. Holding citizenship is also associated with better occupational status.

9th Annual Conference

“Immigrant Exploitation and Policy-Induced Uncertainty”

March 24, 2025
Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto

Programme

10:15 - 10:30 Institutional Greetings

Giorgio Barba Navaretti (President, Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto; Scientific Director, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano; Professor of Economics, University of Milan; and CEPR)

10:30 - 11:20

Gemma Dipoppa (Columbia University): “When Migrants Mobilize against Labor Exploitation: Evidence from the Italian Farmlands”

11:20 - 11:40 Coffee Break

11:40 - 12:30

Paolo Falco (University of Copenhagen): “Consumer Preferences for Migrant and Native Workers: Evidence from a Large-Scale Experiment”

12:30 - 13:20

Daniel Auer (Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto): “Asparagus! Worker Shortages and Local Immigration Support”

13:20 - 14:20 Lunch Break

14:20 - 15:10

Anthony Edo (CEPR, ICM and IZA): “Monopsony, Efficiency, and the Regularization of Undocumented Immigrants”

15:10 - 16:00

Elia Benveniste (Universitat Pompeu Fabra): “The Effect of Regularization on Migrant Labor Exploitation”

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 - 17:20

Mariña Fernández-Reino (Spanish Research Council and University of Oxford): “Rebordering Britain: European Residents and the Post-Brexit Immigration System”

17:30 - 18:00 Presentation of the Migration Observatory 9th Annual Report: "Immigrant Integration in Europe",

Tommaso Frattini (Migration Observatory Coordinator; Professor of Economics, University of Milan; Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano and CEPR)

18:00 - 18:15 Policy Conclusions

Camilla Borgna (University of Turin and Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto)