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Press Release

10th Migration Observatory Report “Immigrant Integration in Europe: a decade of changes (2015-2024)”

*by Tommaso Frattini (Università degli Studi di Milano, LdA and CEPR)
with Anissa Bouchlaghem (LdA)*

The Migration Observatory of Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano (LdA) and Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto (CCA) has published the tenth annual report on the economic integration of immigrants in Europe, written by Tommaso Frattini with Anissa Bouchlaghem.

The study, available on the [Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano website](#) (click here to download the [PDF](#)), is published by the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and will be presented on Thursday 4 June at 4:00 pm (CEST) at the Council of Europe Development Bank in Paris. The presentation will be followed by a roundtable discussion featuring Tanja Faller, Director of the Technical Assessment and Monitoring Directorate at the Council of Europe Development Bank and Clément Imbert, Professor of Economics at Sciences Po.

To take part in the event, please register via the following [link](#).

The report is based on an original analysis of the 2024 European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) microdata and combines two perspectives: on the one hand, an updated picture of the presence and economic integration of immigrants in European labour markets; on the other, an analysis of how immigration and integration pathways have changed over the past decade, between 2015 and 2024.

The analysis shows that immigrants have become an increasingly structural component of European societies. Over the past ten years, their level of education, employment rates, and presence in higher-skilled occupations have all increased. However, significant gaps with native-born populations remain, particularly with regard to job quality and employment opportunities for migrants from non-EU countries.

The Observatory's activities are supported by Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo.

The key findings are summarised below.

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A decade of strong growth in immigration

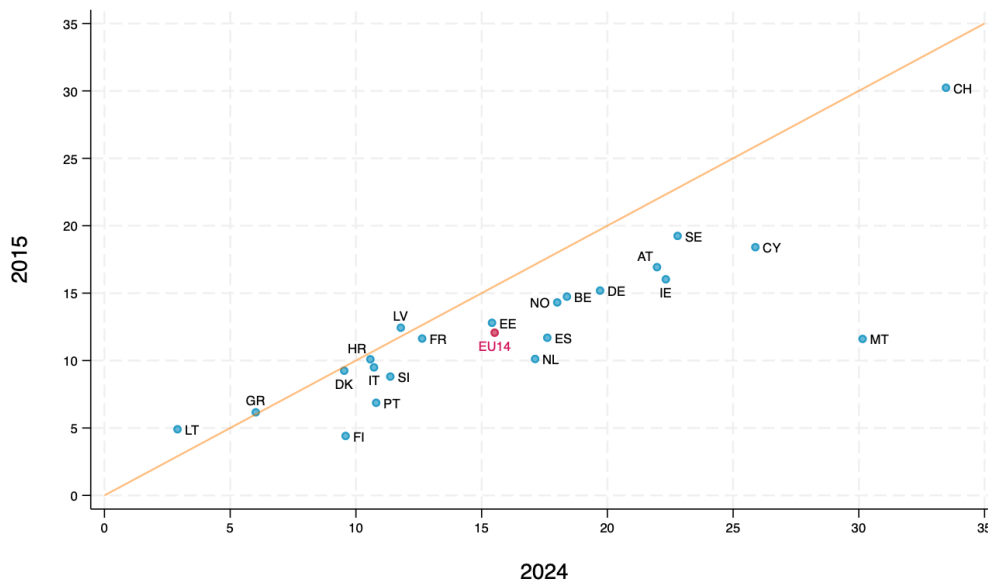
Between 2015 and 2024, the presence of foreign-born residents increased significantly across much of Europe. In the EU14 countries, the share of the foreign-born population rose from 12.1% to 15.5%, with over 12 million more immigrants than a decade ago.

The increase was particularly strong in Malta, Cyprus, Ireland, Spain, and the Netherlands. In Greece, by contrast, the share of immigrants remained broadly stable, while the Baltic countries recorded slight declines.

The decade was also marked by a shift in the composition of migration flows. The share of immigrants coming from other EU countries declined, while the weight of non-EU migrants increased, particularly those from the Middle East, North Africa, and the Americas.

In Germany and Austria, for example, there was a significant rise in the presence of immigrants from Western Asia and North Africa, also driven by refugee inflows following 2015. In Spain, migration from Latin America increased the most.

Migrant share in 2015 and in 2024 across European countries



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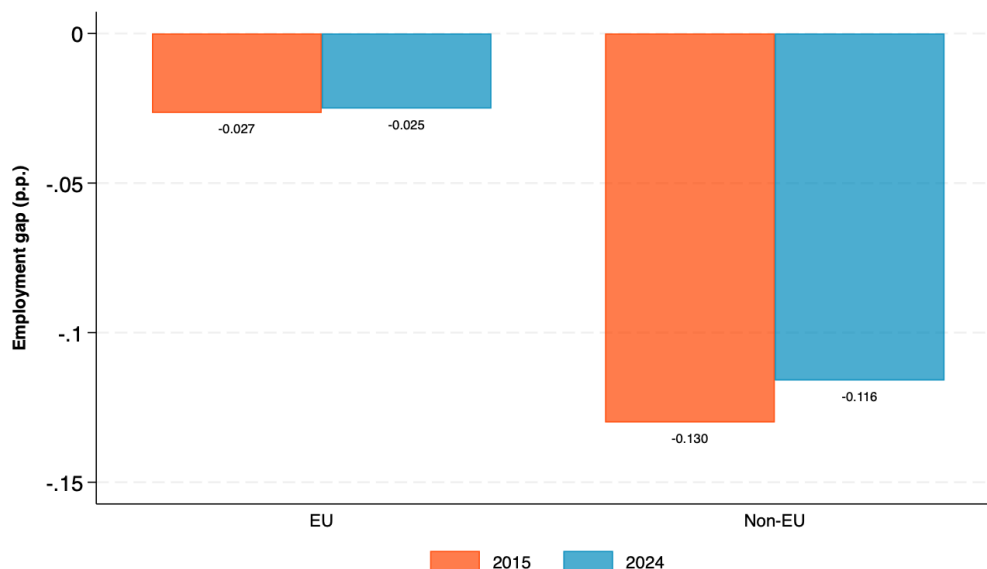
Higher levels of education and employment, but gaps remain

Over the past decade, immigrants have improved their economic outcomes in absolute terms. In the EU14 countries, the share of immigrants with a university degree increased from around 26% in 2015 to 32% in 2024.

Employment has also risen in almost all European countries. However, improvements have also concerned native-born workers, and the overall employment gap has remained broadly stable: in the EU14 countries, immigrants continue to have a probability of employment that is around 9–10 percentage points lower than that of natives.

This stability, however, conceals important changes. Over the past ten years, the share of non-EU migrants has increased, and they typically start from more disadvantaged employment conditions. Despite this, non-EU migrants have improved their relative position in the labour market, preventing the overall gap from widening further.

**Immigrant-native differences in employment probability in 2015 and 2024
in EU14 countries, by origin**



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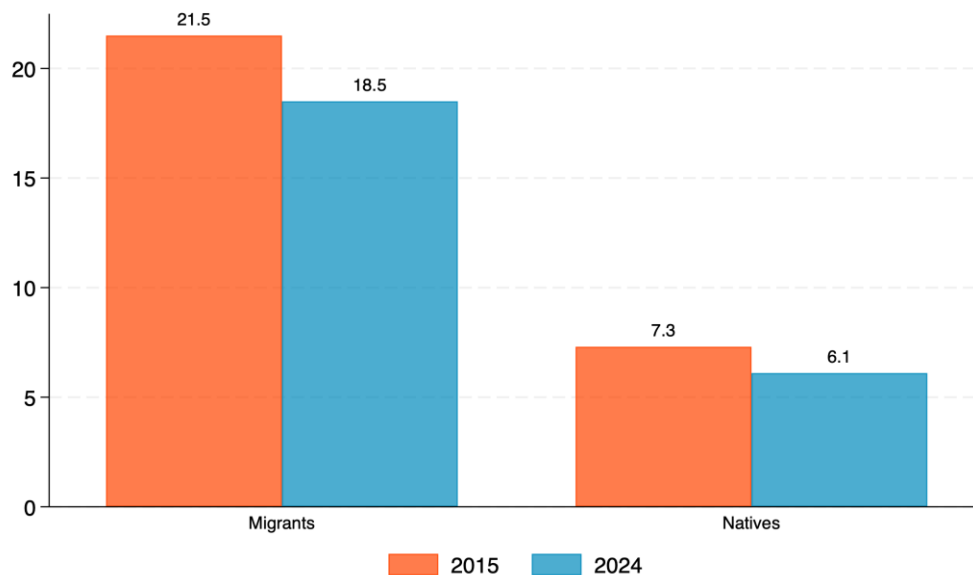
The issue of job quality

The main area of concern relates to job quality. Immigrants remain much more concentrated than native-born workers in lower-skilled and lower-paid jobs, even at the same level of education.

In 2024, immigrants in Europe are around 12 percentage points more likely than natives to be employed in elementary occupations. Conversely, they remain underrepresented in highly skilled occupations.

Over the course of the decade, the situation has improved moderately: concentration in low-skilled jobs has declined, while the presence in high-skilled occupations has increased. However, significant gaps remain, particularly for migrants from non-EU countries.

Share of migrants and natives in elementary occupations in EU14 countries, 2015 and 2024



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“Integration has improved, but convergence remains partial”

“Over the past ten years, immigrants have contributed to employment growth and to the rising levels of education observed in Europe,” notes Tommaso Frattini. “However, gaps with native-born workers remain substantial, particularly in job quality. Economic integration has improved, but convergence remains slow and highly heterogeneous across countries and migrant groups.”

According to the authors, the findings show that economic integration depends not only on access to employment, but also on the ability to make use of skills and qualifications acquired abroad. Policies on the recognition of educational credentials, language training, and access to skilled professions therefore remain central to improving the economic integration of immigrants in Europe.

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