

Distr.: General  
24 October 2017

English

---

## United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

### Conference of European Statisticians

#### Work Session on Migration Statistics

Geneva, Switzerland

30-31 October 2017

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Longitudinal studies of migrants

## Longitudinal Study of immigrant cohorts 2010-2012 in Austria

Note by Statistics Austria\*

### *Abstract*

Migration and integration research increasingly demand information on changes of socio-economic characteristics of immigrant populations over time. Of special interest are the following questions:

- How long do immigrants stay in the destination country?
- Are they able to get their feet on the labour market?

The introduction of administrative registers in many parts of public administration in Austria as well as their use for statistical purpose offers the possibility of a comparatively easy determination of the socio-economic status of migrants. By linking statistical information of several registers it is possible to obtain information, which previously would have to be collected by specifically targeted surveys. The linkage is possible by means of an individual pseudonym for statistical purposes, respecting data protection requirements.

The study starts by identifying three cohorts of people that immigrated to Austria during 2010, 2011 or 2012 in the Austrian Population Register. These three years have been chosen as in 2011 Austria removed the last restrictions for labour market access of citizens of the EU-member states since 2004. This in turn led to considerable migration inflows to Austria from the countries concerned. For these cohorts information on subsequent migration episodes has been added allowing for the identification of the length of stay in Austria. Linking with Social Security data on micro level added information on the labour market status of the members of these cohorts over time.

---

\*Prepared by Mr. Josef Kytir, Mr. Stephan Marik-Lebeck (presenter)

The study will present the main results of data linkage of several administrative registers, which in turn allows for a socio-economic profile for migrants of the specific cohorts to be established.

## I. Introduction

1. With the marked increase of immigration to most European countries during the last decade, the relevance of migration on the political agenda has risen and become the subject of multiple social discussions. This in turn has resulted in increased demand on more detailed information on the structural characteristics of migrants. Especially the socio-economic status migrants endorse at the moment of immigration and may achieve later during the stay in the host country has shifted into the focus of the political agenda, as it is increasingly seen as the key to measuring “successful” integration of migrants into the hosting societies. Labour market integration and educational attainment are seen as central factors in this context.

2. The increasingly comprehensive use of registers in public administration offers the possibility of systematic data extraction of several of these characteristics for statistical purposes. Linkage among register data (respecting data protection by using individual statistical pseudonyms) allows for the analysis of data, which has previously been only available through surveys tailored for specific respondent groups. Linkage of data from the Austrian population register with register-based labour market status thus seemed to be a promising way for getting more information on specific migrant groups.

## II. Methodology

3. Most statistical registers in Austria have been created with a view to the first register-based census in 2011. Apart a few exceptions, these are mostly mirror databases of administrative registers. The information contained therein has been arranged, historicised and harmonised for statistical purposes. Any analysis of person-based characteristics of migrants in Austria draws on information from the Central Register of Residence (ZMR), or correspondingly, its statistical mirror the Population Register (POPREG). This contains for all people with an upright registration of a main residence in Austria the central structural attributes, namely date of birth (age), country of birth, sex, citizenship and place of residence within Austria. For labour market integration data is available through register-based labour market careers (REV), which draw on information of the Organisation of Austrian Social Security and the Public Employment Service of Austria as well as other registers. Information on episodes from these registers have been linked and arranged to get a complete time series of labour market biographies without overlaps.<sup>1</sup> Each person thus was labelled with a unique labour market status for

---

<sup>1</sup> A detailed description of the methodology used in creating the labour market careers can be found in German at:  
[http://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_PDF\\_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=110458](http://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=110458)

every single day between the beginning of 2009 and the end of 2015. The classification is oriented at the register-based labour market statistics of Austria.

4. In view of the goal of analysing integration paths of migrants in Austria, it seemed feasible to perform a longitudinal study of all immigrants newly arriving in Austria in a certain year. Migration statistics show for the years from 2010 onwards a sharp increase in the annual number of immigrants from abroad to Austria. This has to be set into the context of lifting labour market restrictions for citizens of the EU-accession countries of 2004, which occurred in stages starting from 2009, but was finally achieved only on 1st May 2011. Choosing migrants arriving in Austria during 2010, 2011 and 2012 thus seemed particularly interesting. With respect to labour market integration it was decided to focus only on migrants immigrating to Austria for the first time and thus having to establish themselves on the Austrian labour market. Circular migrants of previous years (also including seasonal or temporary migrants) were thus explicitly excluded from the analysis. The selection was made from data of migration statistics, which since 2002 has been compiled on the basis of registrations and de-registrations of main residences in Austria in the Central Registration Register (ZMR). Selecting first-time immigrants for 2010, 2011 and 2012 meant using only PINs appearing initially in the ZMR during one of the three years. In addition, all data relating to births had to be excluded from this range. The number of first-time immigrants determined that way constitutes the migration cohorts for the reference years. As such it is a person-based subset of all immigration cases during the reference years and may be linked to other person-based register information.

5. Subsequently a longitudinal database extract of the population register was created for all the PINs constituting the migration cohorts 2010, 2011 and 2012. This contained all registration episodes (sequences of registration and de-registration at different addresses in Austria and to/from abroad) for the population concerned from first registration in Austria<sup>2</sup> until 1 January 2017. On the one hand, this includes mainly demographic information such as date of birth, sex and citizenship. On the other hand, the analysis of registration episodes also delivers information on the length of stay in Austria. It may be extended in future for the prevalence of circular migration patterns as well as for the mobility of migrants within Austria. A comparison of person-related information in POPREG may additionally deliver information on any naturalisations.<sup>3</sup>

6. In a second step longitudinal data from POPREG was linked to register-based labour market careers (see above). For every person being part of the migration cohorts 2010, 2011 and 2012 as defined above, thus a complete sequence of labour market status was added for the period between first immigration to Austria and 31 December 2015. This allowed for analysis of the forms and extent of labour market integration of immigrants in Austria as well as the time lap for getting there.

7. Another field of main interest would be the educational attainment of immigrants. Yet, register information on educational attainment only covers

---

<sup>2</sup> actually first registration since 2001, as no register information on residences is available prior to 1 January 2002. In most cases, however, any previous registration would primarily concern Austrian citizens, which were deliberately excluded from the analysis.

<sup>3</sup> Given the current legal framework, naturalisation is highly unlikely to play any role of importance yet among the immigrant cohorts of 2010-2012 as it requires at least ten years of continuous stay in Austria. (only in specific cases: six years)

qualifications obtained in Austria. Linkage of migrant cohorts with the Austrian educational attainment register thus showed little feasible results, containing information for only about 5% of the cohorts and showing a large share of qualifications obtained prior to registration with a main residence in Austria. Besides the fact, that only a minority of migrants attains further education in Austria after immigration, the data seems also to be biased towards a specific group of migrants, namely those, that only register after having finished their education in Austria. In this respect, further analysis beyond the scope of the present study would be necessary.

8. Overall, the results presented below offer a first step towards better understanding the socio-economic profile of immigrants in Austria and their way into the Austrian labour market. The main findings will be presented in the following paragraphs, starting with a determination of the number of first-time immigrants over the years by age, sex and citizenship and distinguishing by length of stay. Subsequent analysis will then present labour market participation rates over time.

### III. Migrant Cohorts 2010-2012

9. Overall immigration to Austria rose by roughly one quarter from about 113,000 in 2010 to 140,000 in 2012. First-time immigrants to Austria were registered in almost 78,000 cases in 2010 (69% of total), mounting to 103,000 in 2012 (73%). While immigration of Austrian citizens remained largely stable of the reference period, immigration of foreigners increased markedly from roughly 97,000 cases in 2010 to 125,000 in 2012. Of these about 75,000 were newcomers in 2010 rising to almost 100,000 in 2012.

Table 1:

Citizenship	Immigration			First-time Immigration			Share of first-timers in total immigration		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
<b>Total</b>	<b>112.691</b>	<b>124.619</b>	<b>140.358</b>	<b>77.887</b>	<b>89.218</b>	<b>102.503</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>73%</b>
Austria	15.795	14.698	14.753	2.895	2.705	2.612	18%	18%	18%
<b>Non-Austrian</b>	<b>96.896</b>	<b>109.921</b>	<b>125.605</b>	<b>74.992</b>	<b>86.513</b>	<b>99.891</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>80%</b>
EU-MS prior to 2004, EFTA	27.007	27.181	29.643	23.097	23.677	26.050	86%	87%	88%
<i>Germany</i>	17.966	17.410	17.774	15.248	15.134	15.492	85%	87%	87%
EU-MS since 2004	33.351	42.688	49.543	24.552	32.701	38.938	74%	77%	79%
<i>Hungary</i>	6.412	9.250	13.066	4.999	7.530	11.007	78%	81%	84%
<i>Romania</i>	11.344	12.907	13.362	8.444	9.682	9.931	74%	75%	74%
Third countries	36.538	40.052	46.419	27.343	30.135	34.903	75%	75%	75%
<i>West Balkans</i>	12.242	12.257	13.472	7.765	7.038	7.654	63%	57%	57%
<i>Turkey</i>	4.258	3.812	4.088	3.160	2.853	3.001	74%	75%	73%
<i>Afghanistan</i>	1.281	2.908	3.756	1.216	2.775	2.755	95%	95%	73%
<i>Russian Federation</i>	2.205	2.643	3.438	1.729	2.458	3.340	78%	93%	97%
<i>African States</i>	3.135	3.685	3.808	2.295	2.167	2.805	73%	59%	74%

Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics.

10. Immigrants of non-Austrian nationality were roughly divided into three large groups: citizens of EU-Member States prior to 2004 (mainly Germany and Italy), citizens of EU-accession countries since 2004 (mainly Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and to a lesser extent Poland) and Third Country nationals. Within the last group immigration from the West Balkans (former Yugoslavia) and Turkey was important, as well as from the Russian Federation (mainly Tchetshens) and a number of Asian countries (especially Afghanistan), representing in a large part Asylum seekers or family reunification for refugees recognised in Austria.

11. While the number of immigration from EU-Member States prior to 2004 changed only slightly between 2010 and 2012 (+10%), there was a significant increase in the number of migrants from EU-accession countries after 2004. Their number mounted from about 33,000 in 2010 to almost 50,000 in 2012 (+49%). The number of first-time immigrants even increased more steeply from 25,000 in 2010 to 39,000 in 2012 (+58%). Immigration of Third-Country nationals also increased by about a quarter (+27%) for both overall migration and first-time immigration to Austria.

12. Higher shares of first-time immigration to Austria among EU-Member States prior to 2004 citizenship groups are mostly explained by the fact, that this group is constituted to a large part by students from Germany and Italy (especially South Tyrol) without any previous migration ties to Austria.

13. In contrast, shares of first-time immigrants to Austria are lower among the other two groups, indicating the larger relevance of circular migration in the case of the EU-accession countries after 2004 as well as the West Balkans (*Marik-Lebeck 2012*). Countries of origin of asylum seekers show much larger shares of first-time immigrants, in some cases attaining up to 95%. However, there has to be some caution as multiple identities may not have been immediately detected in the register, thus overestimating the share of first-time immigrants.<sup>4</sup>

## A. First-time immigrant cohorts by age and sex

14. About 87% of First time immigrants to Austria at the time of immigration were between 15 and 64 years old. Immigration was however very concentrated in young adult age: About 30% were in the age group 15 to 24 and a further 38% were between 25 and 39 years old. Overall men were slightly overrepresented at 51% (52% if only 15-64 years olds are regarded), but there were slightly higher shares of women immigration in the 15-24 age group. Starting from the age of 55 years, women made up for the majority of immigrants.

---

<sup>4</sup> This is also supported by the fact, that cohorts of citizens with a refugee background dwindle in a much larger manner than cohorts of other citizens. See section XX.

Table 2: Age structure and gender ratio of foreign citizens immigrating for the first-time to Austria by reference year

Citizenship, Age		First-time Immigration			Share of Women		
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Foreign Citizens	<b>Total</b>	<b>74.992</b>	<b>86.513</b>	<b>99.891</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>47%</b>
	0-14	11%	12%	12%	48%	48%	49%
	15-64	87%	86%	87%	48%	46%	46%
	<i>15-24</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>49%</i>
	<i>25-39</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>44%</i>
	<i>40-54</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>44%</i>
	<i>55-64</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>52%</i>
	65+	2%	2%	2%	56%	54%	55%

Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics.

16. Compared to the overall number of immigration cases, first-time immigrants with foreign citizenship had higher shares in all age groups except the 25-39 and the 40-54 year olds. This indicates that circular migration occurs especially in these age groups. A further breakdown for groups of citizenship confirmed the pattern for citizens of EU-MS before and after 2004 as well as for Third Country nationals alike.

## B. Length of stay of different sub-groups of migrant cohorts

17. Longitudinal analysis from the population register showed the rates of reduction in size of the 2010 migration cohort amounted to almost half during the five years after immigration. Overall almost a third (31%) of first-time immigrants left Austria within a year of immigration; 18% even within 6 months, a further 13% within 6 to 12 months. This underlines the enormous importance of short-term migration for Austria, even if only first-time immigrants are considered.

Table 3: Evolution of cohort size of First-time immigrants to Austria of 2010-2012 by citizenship

Reference Year, Length of Stay		2010	2011	2012
Foreign Citizens	First time immigrants	<b>74.992</b>	<b>86.513</b>	<b>99.891</b>
	< 6 months	18%	17%	16%
	6 to < 12 months	13%	11%	15%
	1 to < 2 years	10%	12%	10%
	2 to < 5 years	13%	13%	n/a
	Cohort after 5 years	<b>33.637</b>	<b>40.328</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	in % of original size of cohort	45%	47%	n/a
EU-MS prior to 2004, EFTA	First time immigrants	<b>23.097</b>	<b>23.677</b>	<b>26.050</b>
	< 6 months	14%	12%	13%
	6 to < 12 months	10%	9%	14%
	1 to < 2 years	10%	13%	11%
	2 to < 5 years	18%	18%	n/a
	Cohort after 5 years	<b>11.162</b>	<b>11.152</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	in % of original size of cohort	48%	47%	n/a
EU-MS since 2004	First time immigrants	<b>24.552</b>	<b>32.701</b>	<b>38.938</b>
	< 6 months	22%	20%	18%
	6 to < 12 months	16%	12%	17%
	1 to < 2 years	11%	13%	11%
	2 to < 5 years	12%	11%	n/a
	Cohort after 5 years	<b>9.610</b>	<b>14.257</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	in % of original size of cohort	39%	44%	n/a
Third Country Nationals	First time immigrants	<b>27.343</b>	<b>30.135</b>	<b>34.903</b>
	< 6 months	19%	16%	17%
	6 to < 12 months	13%	11%	13%
	1 to < 2 years	9%	11%	9%
	2 to < 5 years	11%	12%	n/a
	Cohort after 5 years	<b>12.865</b>	<b>14.919</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	in % of original size of cohort	47%	50%	n/a

Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics.

18. A further 10% left Austria after a length of stay of 1 to 2 years, and another 13% within 2 to 5 years. Summed up, the migration cohort of 2010 had been reduced in size to 45% within 5 years. Analysis for 2011 confirmed this pattern, although the cohort was slightly larger after 5 years at 47% of the original size. Although no information on the 5 years evolution of the 2012 cohort is yet available, patterns for the reduction of the migration cohort during the first 2 years after immigration are quite similar to the 2010 and 2011 cohorts.

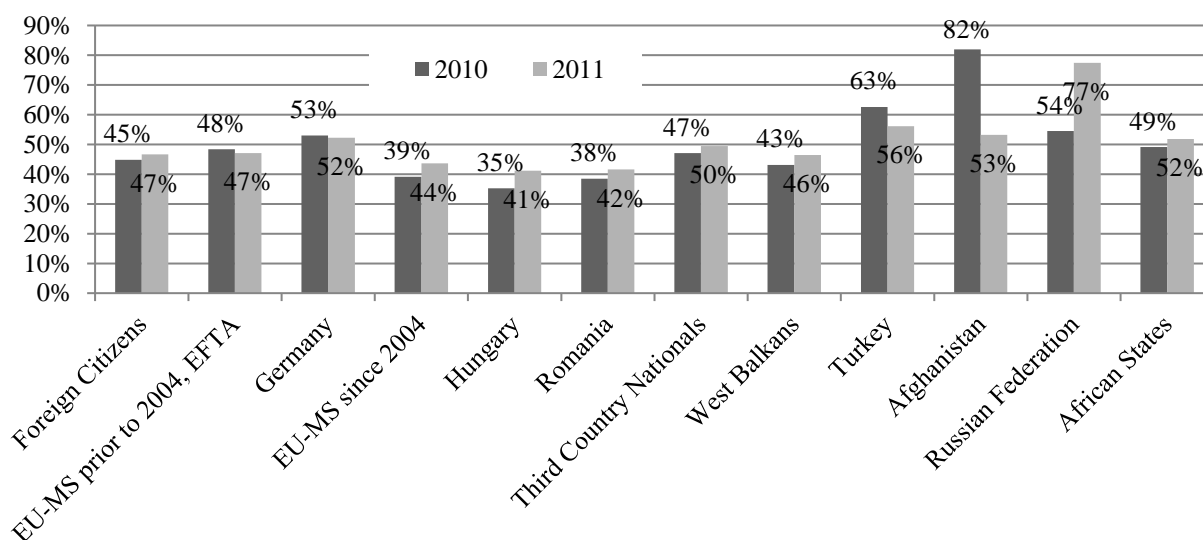
19. However, from more detailed analysis by groups of citizenship, it becomes quite evident, that removing labour market restrictions for the EU-MS of 2004 has had an impact on the share of immigrants remaining in Austria for longer periods. The 2010 cohort of immigrants from EU-MS since 2004 was reduced to 39% of its original size within 5 years, while the 2011 cohort still was 44% after 5 years. In

addition, the original cohorts grew significantly over the three years, meaning that the 2011 cohort of EU-MS since 2004 after 5 years was about 50% larger than the 2010 cohort.

20. There appear also to be changes among the cohorts of Third-Country nationals (TCN). While the 2010 cohort was only 47% its size after 5 years, the 2011 cohort was slightly larger at 50%, while the 2012 cohort seems to follow rather the path of the 2010 cohort.

21. Further disaggregation by more detailed regions shows little change for West Balkans citizens (successor states of Yugoslavia outside the EU), whose cohorts are about 45% in size after 5 years of immigration. For Turkish citizens there is a reduction in size of the cohort after 5 years from almost two thirds in 2010 to about 56% in 2011.

Graph 1: Cohort size of First-time immigrants to Austria of 2010-2012 after 5 years by citizenship



Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics.

22. The most significant changes between cohorts can be observed for citizens of countries, from which migration with a refugee background dominates. Examples include especially Afghanistan and the Russian Federation, which were the most important countries of origin of asylum seekers in Austria during 2010-2012. While the share of permanent migrants (staying for more than 5 years in Austria) among Afghan citizens fell from 82% in the 2010 cohort to 53% for 2011 cohort, it rose from 54% to 77% for Russian citizens. There is no clear trend observable, with large variation between the cohorts. One possible explanation for the oscillation may lie in the average length of asylum procedures; another may be the ratio of newly arriving asylum seekers to migration under the title of family reunification.

23. This also holds true for African citizens (whose immigration is also to a large part induced by asylum migration). Nonetheless, cohort size and reduction over the following 5 years are quite for the 2010-2012 period. This may be partially due to the relevance of family reunification migration for the two largest flows of African citizens to Austria, namely Egypt and Nigeria, which have populations in Austria already established for a longer time.



24. Concluding this chapter, it might be said, that migration cohorts to Austria tend to be a little more than halved in size after 5 years. This implies that a very important part of migration to Austria is not permanent, but for a limited time. Of course, circular migration plays an important role for neighbouring countries. Yet, circular migrants remain in the cohort, when re-entering Austria at a later date and thus cannot explain the reduction of the cohort size.

### **C. Labour-market integration of migrant cohorts**

25. Leaving Austria to return to the country of origin or to move on to another country (chain migration), may essentially be linked to the possibilities for migrants of earning a living in Austria. Of course, this largely depends on the general economic conditions and cycles of conjuncture in the hosting country.

26. Thus, in the following chapter labour market integration in Austria for migrants is thus discussed in more detail, focusing on labour market participation rates of the population in main working age (15 to 64 years) and comparing them with labour market participation rates of the overall migrant population.

27. For analysis of labour market integration, data from register-based labour market careers is available for the 2009 to 2015 period. Thus only the migration cohort for 2010 may be followed over 5 years, while for those of 2011 and 2012 data is only available for shorter periods.

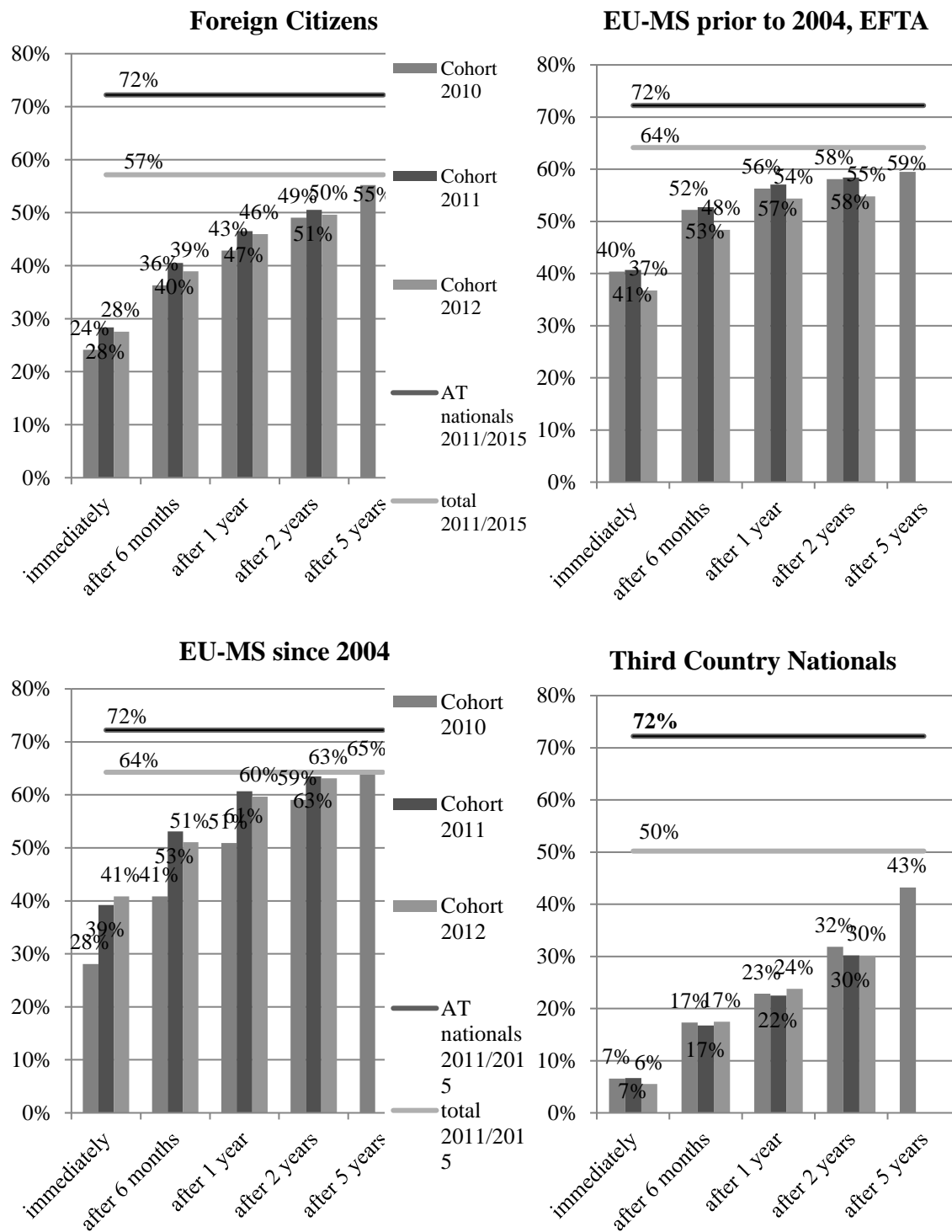
28. When analysing the data, it is important to keep in mind, that labour market status is based upon administrative data from social security, meaning that only formalised work may be recorded. Informal work arrangements may be better covered in Labour Force Surveys.

29. Graph 2 shows the labour market participation rates of first-time migrant cohorts 2010-2012 in main working age by the time elapsed since the first immigration and set against labour market participation rates on average of 2011-2015 of Austrian nationals as well as the respective citizens living in Austria as a whole.

30. Austrian nationals aged 15-64 had a labour market participation rate of 72% on average 2011/2015, while that for foreign citizens living in Austria was 57%. The foreign citizens of the migrant cohort 2010 had a labour market participation rate of 24% right after the registration of a residence in Austria, rising to 36% after six months, 43% after one year, 49% after 2 years and 55% after 5 years. The 2011 and 2012 Cohorts fare even a little better, although data is not available for the 5 year time-point.

31. EU-citizens of MS prior to 2004 have an overall labour market participation rate of 64%. About 40% of the Cohorts were in the labour market right after immigration, rising to 52% after 6 months and achieving 59% after 5 years. It is interesting to note that the 2012 cohort fared a little worse, which may be partially explained with the high relevance of migration for educational purpose of mainly German and Italian students to Austrian universities, which reduce labour market participation.

Graph 2: Labour market participation rates of first-time migrant cohorts 2010-2012 aged 15-64 years by group of citizenship and time elapsed since immigration



Source: Statistics Austria, Register-based labour market statistics.

32. EU-citizens of MS since 2004 also have an overall labour market participation rate of 64% for people in the main working age. 28% of the 2010 cohort participated immediately after immigration in the Austrian labour market, 41% after 6 months, 51% after one year and 59% after 2 years. With 65% after 5 years participation of the 2010 cohort was even a little higher than for all members of this group, irrespective of the time of immigration. This may be linked to higher shares of young migrants in the 2010 cohort than in the overall population.

33. For this citizenship group a marked difference can be observed for the 2011 and 2012 cohorts, which feature much higher participation rates at earlier time points. This is most likely related to the lift of restriction of access to the Austrian labour market for this group taking effect on 1 May 2011.

34. Third country nationals aged 15-64 living in Austria had an overall labour market participation rate of 50%. Only 7% entered the labour market directly after immigration, on the one hand because of restrictions to do so for asylum seekers and on the other hand as a result of the structure of the cohorts of third country nationals, which contain large numbers arriving under the title of family reunification. Labour market participation rose to 17% after 6 months, 23% after one year, about 30% after two years and 43% for the 2010 cohort after 5 years.

35. Further analysis by more detailed citizenship shows that labour market participation within 5 years after immigration became quite comparable for the 2010 cohort to the overall population of the same citizenship living in Austria. 57% of all foreign citizens living in Austria aged 15-64 participated in the labour market. The 2010 cohort obtained a share of 55% after 5 years of immigration.

36. For some countries of the EU-MS since 2004 the participation rates of the 2010 cohort were even higher than for the overall population of the same citizenship living in Austria. Notable examples are Hungary and Romania, with participation rates of the 2010 cohort being about 4 to 5 percentage points higher than for the overall population. Interestingly, this phenomenon was only visible for men, while women had comparable rates.

37. Further disaggregation of citizenships of Third Country nationals showed, that labour market participation of the 2010 cohort was lower than of the overall population of the same citizenship living in Austria for citizens of the West Balkans and Turkey indicating the relevance of family reunification migration for these countries with long established migration ties to Austria.

38. In contrast, labour market participation of the 2010 cohort was much higher for citizens with a likely refugee background. The most notable example is Afghanistan, whose members of the 2010 cohort had a labour market participation rate 11 percentage points higher than the overall population after 5 years of immigration. Yet, this group mainly constitutes of recent migrants, to a large part awaiting a decision of their asylum application.

39. To a lesser extent, this also holds true for citizens of the Russian Federation (in Austria mainly Tschetchens) and of African States. Differences here are lower as recent immigrants have a lower share in the total population living in Austria.

Table 4: Labour market participation rates of members aged 15-64 of 2010 migrant cohort compared to overall population of same citizenship living in Austria

Sex, migrant group		Austrian Nationals	Foreign Citizens	EU-MS prior to 2004, EFTA	Germany	EU-MS since 2004	Hungary	Romania
cohort 2010			55%	59%	61%	65%	71%	64%
total		72%	57%	64%	66%	64%	66%	60%
male	cohort 2010		63%	65%	67%	72%	81%	71%
	total	76%	62%	67%	68%	69%	72%	66%
female	cohort 2010		48%	53%	56%	59%	61%	58%
	total	68%	52%	61%	63%	60%	62%	56%

Sex, migrant group		Austrian Nationals	Third Country Nationals	West Balkans	Turkey	Russian Federation	Afghanistan	African States
cohort 2010			43%	50%	42%	33%	31%	37%
total		72%	50%	59%	50%	32%	22%	36%
male	cohort 2010		54%	63%	61%	32%	40%	44%
	total	76%	57%	66%	65%	33%	26%	42%
female	cohort 2010		34%	39%	22%	34%	8%	28%
	total	68%	43%	52%	35%	31%	13%	29%

Source: Statistics Austria, Register-based labour market statistics.

41. Gender-related differences in labour market participation were visible for the foreign population as a whole. Men with foreign citizenship had a participation rate of 62%, women only 52%. The 2010 cohort fared a little better than the overall population for men (63%), but worse for women (48%).

42. The differences were most marked for third country nationals at 57% for men and 43% for women. The 2010 cohort attained lower shares: Within 5 years after immigration 54% of men, but only 34% of women were in formal employment. For the West Balkans and Turkey low participation rates of women lowered the overall labour market participation rate, while that of men was quite comparable to EU-citizens.

43. From the labour market participation rates of the 2010 cohort it is quite evident, that labour market integration of women for third country nationals is progressing at a lower pace than that of men. This may be partially explained by the relative preponderance of traditional family models for those groups, with only male earners in the household.

44. Interestingly, gender-related differences in labour market participation also exist among EU-citizens living in Austria, albeit on a lower level than for third country nationals. Overall participation rates for citizens of EU-MS prior to 2004 were 67% for men and 61% for women. The 2010 cohort reached 65% for men after 5 years after immigration, but only 53% for women. The latter may be due to the fact, that education migration to Austria is for the most part female.

45. Differences were similar for the overall population of citizens of EU-MS since 2004, with a labour market participation rate of 69% for men and 60% for women.

However, the 2010 cohort attained an even higher labour market integration for men (72%) within 5 years of immigration, while for women the difference was quite small (59%).

## D. Conclusion

46. The longitudinal study at hand delivered three main results. Firstly, it determined the share of migrants staying in Austria for more than 5 years (which by definition of the European Union is the minimum threshold for permanent residence) to be at a little less than half of the immigrants of the reference years observed. This has significant implications to migration policies, aiming at demographic stabilisation through migration.

47. Secondly, the study found out, that labour market integration of immigrants reaches comparable levels to the sub-populations of same citizenship already living in the country during the first five years. EU-citizens tend to establish themselves on the Austrian labour market (in formal employment) quicker than third country nationals, although for men there are less differences. They also obtain overall higher labour market participation rates, mainly due to higher participation of women in the labour market.

48. Thirdly, labour market integration of migrants with a refugee background is bound to take longer. On the one hand, this is influenced by the length of asylum procedures, as asylum seekers in the procedure are not allowed into formal employment and may only enter the formal labour market after recognition as a refugee. On the other hand, lower labour market participation of these groups is mainly the result of women abstaining from the (formal) labour market for whatever reasons, while for men integration into the labour market works much better.

49. The results of the present study in any case form only a starting point for further analysis. They join the ranks of other studies dealing with similar subjects (Bauer 2017). The difference lies in the cohort approach taken here, which will over time produce reliable information on the integration process of specific migrant groups, thereby meeting political demand for increased information.

## References

- Bauer, Adelheid (2017), Labour market status and length of stay of migrants in Austria. Working paper presented at the DGINS conference in Budapest, 21 Sept 2017. [http://www.ksh.hu/dgins2017/papers/dgins2017\\_session3\\_at.pdf](http://www.ksh.hu/dgins2017/papers/dgins2017_session3_at.pdf) (retraced on 21 Oct 2017).
- Konle-Seidl, Regina (2016), Arbeitsintegration von Flüchtlingen – Determinanten und Erfahrungen in europäischen Ländern. In: Wirtschaftspolitische Blätter Jg. 63, H.3, Wien, p.607-621. (German)
- Marik-Lebeck, Stephan (2012): Temporary and circular migration in Austria – a statistical analysis based on the population register (20020-2009). Background Paper to the National Report “Temporary and Circular Migration in Austria” of the European Migration Network. International Organisation for Migration, Vienna, 28 pages.

Wanek-Zajic, Barbara (2016), Registerbasierte Erwerbsverläufe: Konzepte, Methoden und Umsetzung. In Statistik Austria (Hg.) Schnellbericht Registerbasierte Statistiken Nr. 10.28 (German)

[http://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_PDF\\_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=107462](http://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=107462) (retraced on 23 Oct 2017)

---