



# **Comparability of migration and residence permits data in the EU statistics**

**UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on  
Migration Statistics**

**Item 3.10**

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# Motivation

- *Residence permit (RP) statistics one of the most common data source for migration analysts*
- *RP data occasionally compared with immigration (IM) statistics, usually with deceiving results as users' expectations are for exact matching*
- *Necessary to shade light on possible reasons for inconsistencies between RP and IM statistics*

# Milestones

- *Eurostat basic survey in **October 2017***
- *Further elaboration by Eurostat and discussion at the Eurostat WG on Population Statistics in **April 2018***
- *Engagement of the countries to identify the most relevant reasons for differences at national level by **September 2018***

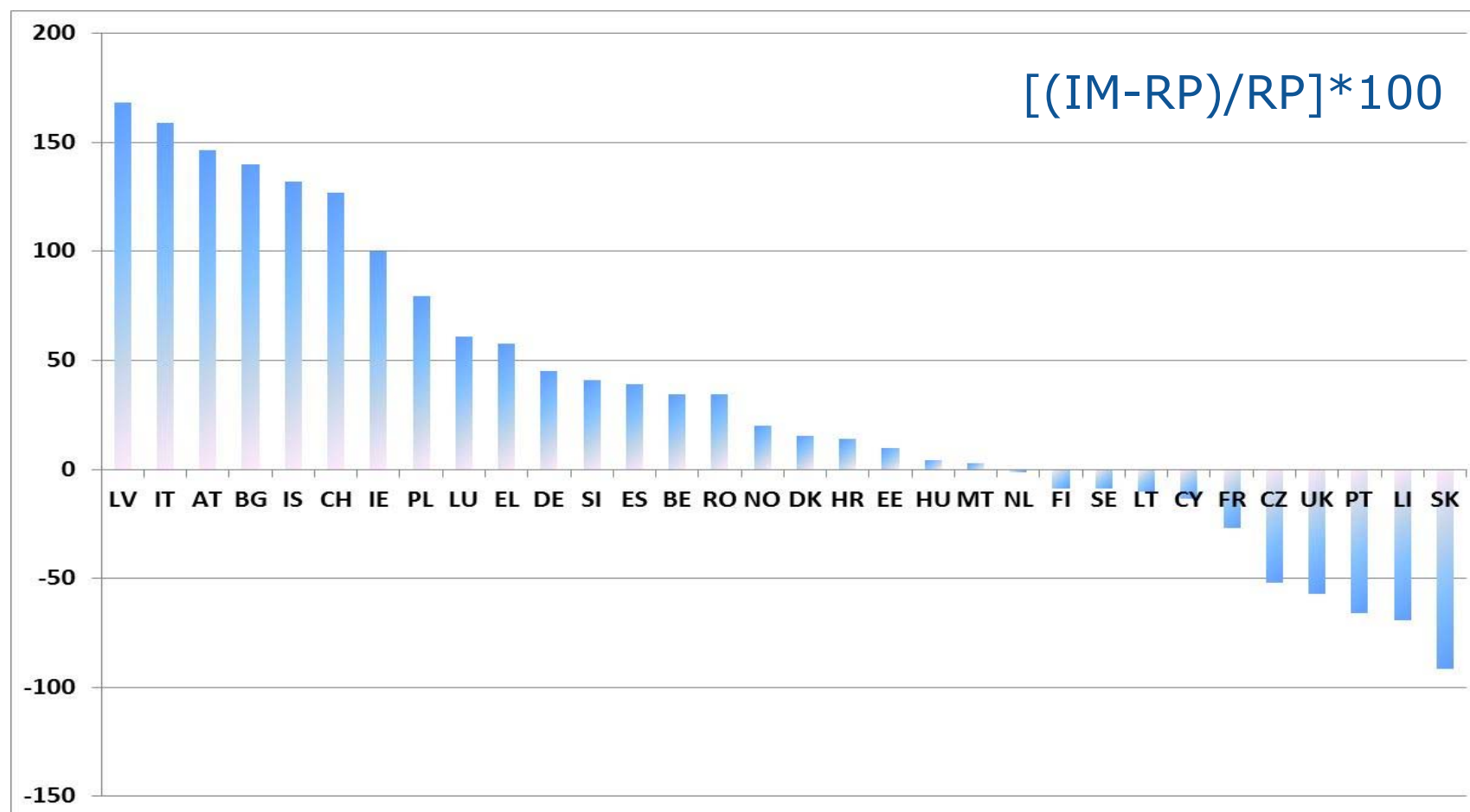
## Main datasets

Statistics	Stocks	Flows
Immigration*	Population on 1 January by age group, sex and citizenship ( <b>migr_pop1ctz</b> )	Immigration by age group, sex and citizenship ( <b>migr_imm1ctz</b> )
Residence permits**	All valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year ( <b>migr_resvalid</b> )	First permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship ( <b>migr_resfirst</b> )

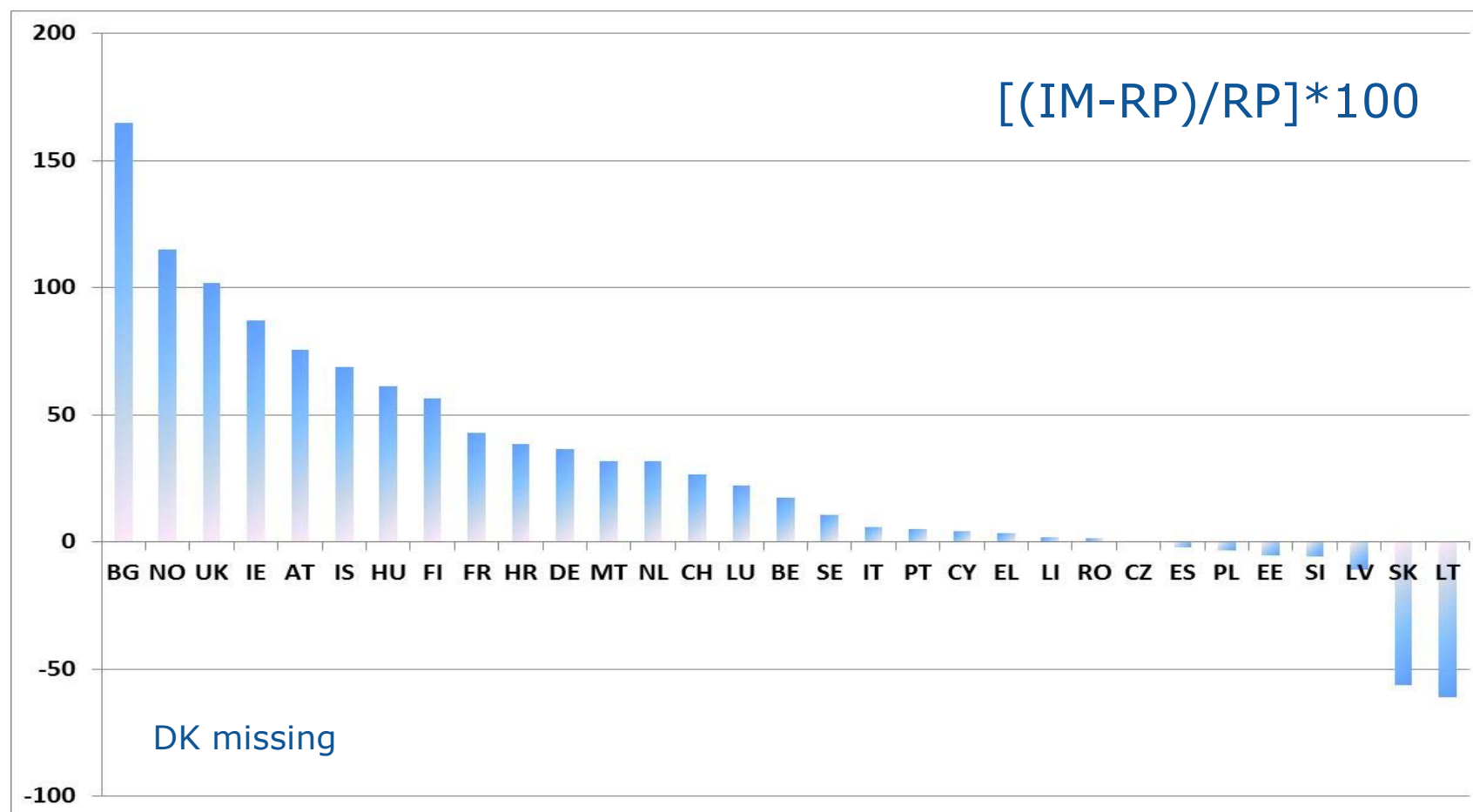
(\*) Restricted to 'third-country nationals' (TCN)

(\*\*) Restricted to length of validity  $\geq 12$  months

## Relative differences in flows 2016



# Relative differences in stocks 2016



## Risks under current conditions

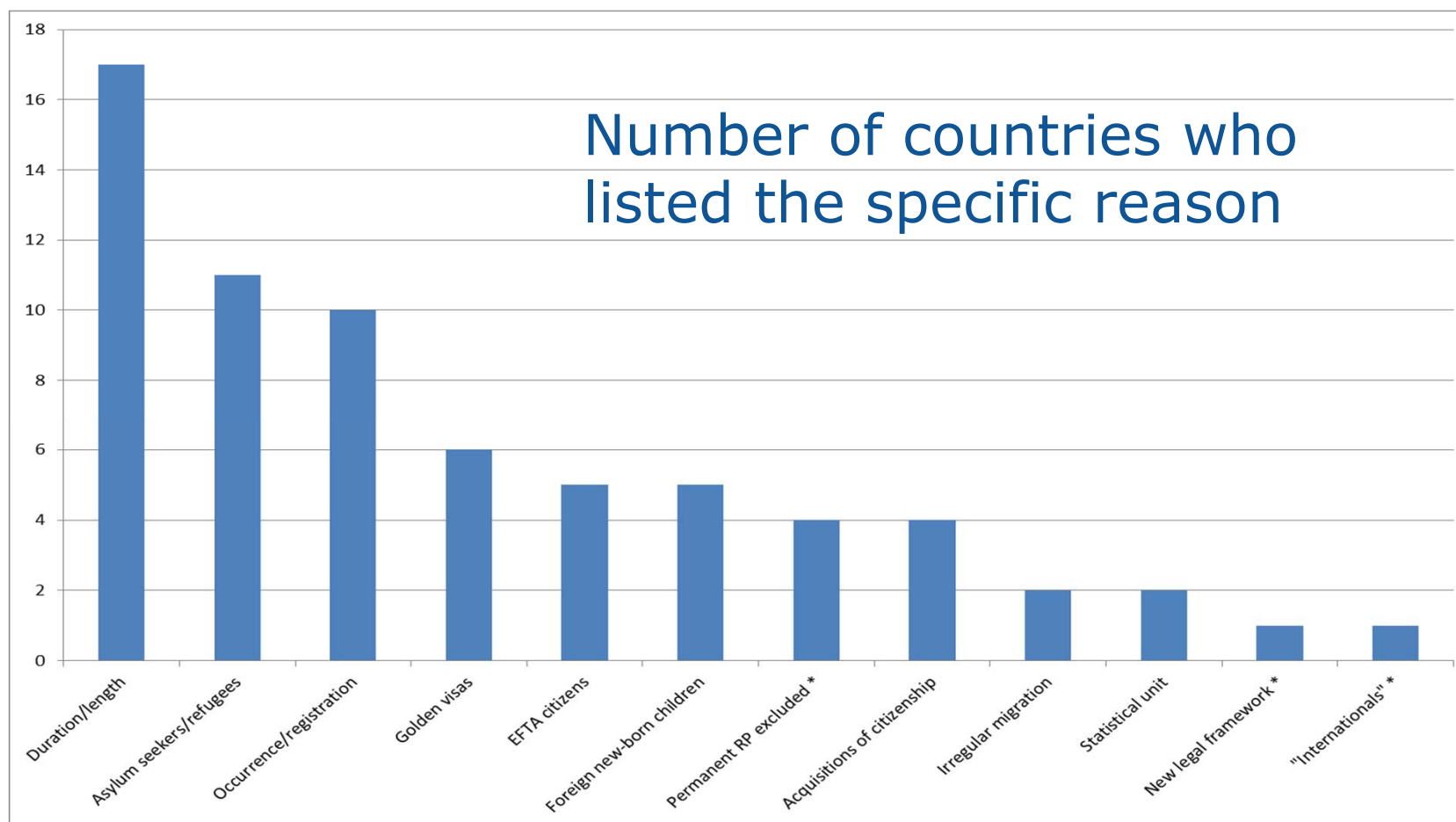
- *Use of RP data in high-level policy analyses as migration proxy*
- *Possible biases in the reasons for migration*
- *Criticisms by users for unexplained differences / perception that the one or the other statistic is 'wrong'*

## 10 possible reasons (for now)

- *Statistical units*
- *Duration of stay and length of validity*
- *Irregular migration*
- *EFTA citizens as third-country nationals*
- *Elderly persons*
- *Foreign new-born children*
- *Asylum seekers and refugees*
- *Golden visas*
- *Date of occurrence and date of registration*
- *Acquisitions of citizenship*



## Provisional results: classification



(\*): new/'still-to-be-classified' reasons

# Provisional results: common reasons

	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU
R1		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R2		✓			✓			✓	✓							✓
R3				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓					
	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	IS	LI	NO	CH
R1		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓					
R2	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓							✓
R3		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓						

*Note: based on interpretation of NSIs replies. To be confirmed.*

R1: duration of stay and length of validity

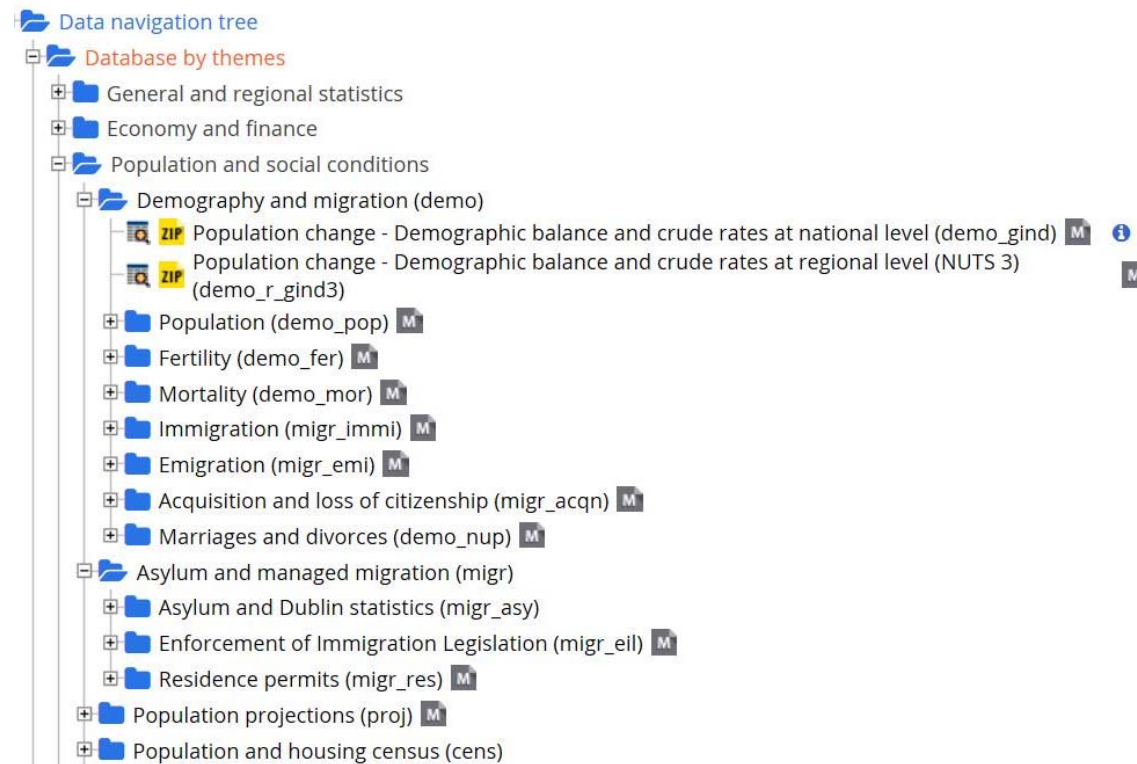
R2: asylum seekers and refugees

R3: date of occurrence and date of registration

## Next steps

- *Classification/harmonisation of the outcomes of the NSIs investigations on the national differences (possible further exchange with NSIs)*
- *Inclusion in the Eurostat metadata for migration statistics*
- *Discussion with RP data providers (Eurostat WG in December 2018)*
- *Clarification of conceptual issues - guidelines*

## DATABASE



**Thank you for the attention!**

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