The European Commission’s science and knowledge service
Joint Research Centre
Evidence on migration in the EU at local level
Summary

1. Spatial features of migration at local level

https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datachallenge/

2. Migration in EU rural areas

http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC116919
From aggregated to local data

To deal with integration we need to zoom-in
Diversity in municipalities by distance from large cities

High diversity in municipalities in proximity of large cities

Own elaboration of data from UK data archive from the 2011 Census
Diversity in neighborhoods by distance from the city center

High diversity in neighborhoods in the city center or in the periphery, depending on urban context

Own elaboration of data from UK data archive and from ISTAT; 2011 and 2001 Census
More spatial residential segregation (clustering) in large cities

Own elaboration of data from National Statistical Institutes in 8 EU MS from the 2011 Census (see D4I)
Population growth of natives and migrants and city size

Population growth for migrants is size dependent contrary to proportionate growth for general population (i.e. rank size rule)

“The rank size rule is a major embarrassment for economic theory: one of the strongest statistical relationships we know lacking any clear basis in theory” (Krugman 1995)

“Is it efficient to provide federal subsidies to small cities to attract residents?” (Ecchhout, 2004)

Own elaboration of data from ISTAT from the 2011 and 2001 Census. Showing averages and confidence bars for around 7000 Local Administrative Units in Italy.
At EU aggregate level: lower propensity of migrants to reside in rural areas and to work in agriculture, but...
Difference in residential shares of migrants between rural and urban areas by MS

Evidence in some countries of "ruralisation" of migrations

Own elaboration of LFS data for the EU
Difference in shares of migrants working in agriculture and in other sectors by MS

Evidence in some countries of “agrarisation” of migrants labor

Own elaboration of LFS data for the EU
Characteristics of migrants residing in rural areas

Migrants from TC in rural areas fare worst than all other groups for several integration indicators

Own elaboration of LFS data for the EU
Migration and temporary work in agriculture

In specific municipalities (e.g. Ragusa, Salerno and the Sele plain (Eboli, Battipaglia), San Ferdinando and the Rosarno-Gioia Tauro plain) evidence of statistical relation between high shares and growth of migrants population and characteristics of agriculture (temporary work).

Own elaboration of National data from ISTAT (2011-2017) and Agricultural Census (2010). Including around 7,770 Local Administrative Units in Italy.
How to satisfy demand of labour in agriculture whilst avoiding exploitation?
### Rural/urban differences in attitudes

#### Evidence of rural-urban divide in attitudes on immigration but also for trust in the EU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude</th>
<th>Large town</th>
<th>Small/middle-sized town</th>
<th>Rural area or village</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigration an opportunity</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration successful</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrants as neighbours</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrants make country better place</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration good for the economy</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust in the EU</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ad hoc Eurobarometer on integration, 2018  
European Social Survey 2016  
Eurobarometer standard, 2018  
Eurobarometer - flash, 2018
Conclusions

• Migrants go mostly to cities, in municipalities gravitating towards large cities and distribute within cities according to specific urban context
• Migrants in large cities are more spatially segregated
• Growth of population of migrants in cities follows different dynamics than general population (network effects)

• TC migrants living in rural areas tend to fare worse in respect of all other groups
• Migrants in rural areas contrast (but not necessarily compensate for) depopulation
• Processes of “agrarisation” of migrant work are present in specific countries and regions
• Challenges for integration:
  • how to satisfy demand of work in agriculture and avoid exploitation
  • which type of integration for migrants in condition of temporariness and, often, irregularity

• Evidence of a rural-urban divide in attitudes towards immigration which may interact with Euroscepticism and depend both on demographic and territorial aspects
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https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/migration-demography_en