Report on the quality of the LFS ad hoc module 2008 on *the labour market situation of migrants and their descendants*

Draft report

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of the series of LFS ad hoc modules (AHM) a module for 2008 was defined on the labour market situation of migrants an their immediate descendants (Commission regulation (EC) No 102/2007). This report presents an assessment of the quality of this AHM. Input for this report is the result of a meeting of the Task Force to evaluate the 2008 LFS AHM, the country reports on the quality of the module and the results of more detailed analysis of the data carried out by Eurostat in the course of 2010.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LFS AHM 2008

There is high political and scientific interest in comparative information on the labour market situation of migrants. For this reason it was logical to dedicate a LFS AHM to this subject. The aim of the module is to get a comprehensive and comparable set of data on the labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants in order to monitor progress towards the common objectives of the European Employment Strategy and of the Social Inclusion Process. The European Council considered, at its meeting in Thessaloniki in June 2003, that a successful integration of migrants contributes to social cohesion and economic welfare and to addressing the demographic and economic challenges that the European Union is now facing, and called for further progress in this respect. The need for effective integration policies was stressed once again in the 'Hague Programme' adopted by the European Council in Brussels in November 2004. Finally, as highlighted in the Commission's first Annual Report on Migration and Integration lack of access to employment has been identified as the greatest barrier to integration and, therefore, the most important political priority within national integration policies.

The core LFS provides already some information on migrants: country of birth (COUNTRYB), nationality (NATIONAL) and years of residence in the country (YEARESID). When introducing the LFS AHM 2008 YEARESID (column 19/20) was slightly extended to give more detail. Instead of having a category of 'more than 10 years' the exact number of years should be collected.

The **target group** of the AHM 2008 are all persons aged 15 to 74[1].

The first variable of the module is the year of acquisition of citizenship, YEARCITI column 203/206, see Annex 1. This variable includes the distinction between "Nationals at birth" and "Nationals by acquisition". It allows comparing the labour market situation of naturalised versus non-naturalised migrants. The variable also provides information on the year of naturalisation. It allows identifying persons born national abroad (e.g. persons born national in colonies or to parents on overseas military service or posted abroad by their employers). It includes also a category 'national since the creation of the country/redefinition of borders'.

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[1] 15-74 corresponds to the age group of the unemployed. The target group should be defined as broadly as possible. This would provide more flexibility in the subsequent analysis of the results. Moreover, it is important to take into account persons aged 65-74 because employment rates are quite high for this age group in some countries.

The next two variables are the country of birth of the father and of the mother (COBFATH, column 207/208 and COBMOTH, column 209/210). These are necessary in order to identify immediate descendants of migrants (i.e. at least one of the parents born abroad). These variables provide detail on geographical/national origins since there may be differences to be observed in terms of labour market integration. For DE these variables refer to nationality and not to country of birth.

The fourth variable is the total number of years of residence in this country (TOTRESID, column 211/212). The aim is to get the total time of residence in the host country. It is important to know about the existence of first migrations since it can favour integration. This variable is important in addition to variable YEARESID for two main reasons. YEARESID only gives the time since the last establishment. Only taking the last entry as reference risks misclassifying those that have in fact much longer exposure to the host country due to prior migrations. Those who have already lived in the host country may not face the same obstacles to labour market entry as the "true" recent arrivals. The second reason is that mobility and circular migration (entrance, exit, re-entrance) is expected to increase in the future.

The variable MIGREAS (column 213) measures the main reason a person had for migration (last migration). The aim is to identify different types of migrants: persons who migrated for employment, for studies, to join family. This seems to be a key variable in order to understand the nature and composition of the migrant populations, and an explanatory variable for labour market integration and related employment rates. The following reasons are distinguished:
(1)   employment as intra-corporate transfer,
(2)   employment job found before other than intra-corporate transfer,
(3)   employment no job found before migrating,
(4)   study,
(5)   international protection,
(6)   accompanying family or family reunification,
(7)   family formation,
(8)   other.

Another variable measures whether the duration of the current residence permit is limited (DURLIM, column 214). Information on the duration of the authorisation to stay in the host country is important because it is a key "pre-cursor" to integration in society and long term integration in the labour market and it is important for social inclusion policy analysis. This variable is optional for FR.

With the variable RESTRACC (column 215) it was intended to measure whether the current legal access to the labour market is restricted. In the perspective of analysing barriers to the integration in the labour market, it is important to be able to identify the legal/work permit restrictions on the migrant's access to the labour market.

Lack of recognition of qualifications is one of the main obstacles to migrants gaining employment or employment which is adequate for their skills and level of education. Variable ESTQUALI (column 216) should measure whether migrants have tried to obtain a certificate that established what their highest qualification equates to in the host country system, and whether they were successful in this.

Lack of language skills could also be a main obstacle for migrants gaining employment. The variable IMPLANG (column 217) should measure the respondent's own impression

on whether his/her language skills constitute an obstacle to an appropriate integration in the labour market.

The variable HELPFIND (column 218) records the main help received in the host country in finding the current job or setting up own business. Information on the way migrants obtained their current job could highlight better ways to focus assistance for labour market integration. The key issue is what pathways or routes migrants use to find work. This variable will allow comparisons between migrants, children of migrants and native born, as well as by duration of residence.

The final variable of the module (SERVINT, column 219/220) should measure the use of services for labour market integration in the two years following the last arrival. This variable should make it possible to analyse the use of services to assist integration in the labour market following the arrival. In particular, it is important to analyse whether labour market integration schemes reach the migrant populations. It should allow assessing how far these measures contribute to the labour market integration of migrants and the impact on their long-term labour market outcomes. The following sorts of measures are distinguished:
(1)   Intensive counselling and job-search assistance
(2)   Professional labour market training (incl. vocational/workplace training, work experience schemes and special support for apprenticeship)
(3)   Tuition and training in the/a national language (speaking, reading and writing)

The module consists of 11 variables. However since there were several Member States (MS) with small populations of migrants, it was decided that for 13 MS the last 7 variables were optional. This concerned the following countries: BG, CZ, DK, EE, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK and FI. All of them except LT collected only information on the first 4 variables (YEARCITI, COBFATH, COBMOTH, TOTRESID). This is also called the short module.

3.   GENERAL MEASUREMENT ISSUES

3.1.   Introduction

When developing this module, there was a lot of concern whether it would be possible to collect good quality information on the labour market situation of migrants. Several measurement issues were brought forward. Would the sample sizes of the migrants be big enough to allow breakdowns? Is the sampling frame adequate to catch the migrants? An address or area sampling frame seems okay but a population register could be inadequate. Is it possible to have a good response rate among migrants? Migrants are known to be a difficult group to get to participate in surveys. Then there is the language issue. Migrants that do not master the host country language could have difficulties to answer the questions. Finally, there is another issue: migrants living in collective dwellings are usually not included in the target population.

3.2.   Target population

For the AHM 2008 the target population was: all persons 15-74 years of age. This has caused some problems. Firstly, the upper age limit of 74 was quite high for a module on migrants. In the UK the module was limited to 16-69 resulting in missing data for persons 70-74 years of age. In the Nordic countries some information was derived from

registers. For older persons this is more difficult resulting in a substantial share of older persons for whom this information is missing.

A second issue concerned the fact that the module was considered not enough focussed. Some variables related to the whole population, others to persons born abroad and others to non-nationals. No definition of first or second generation was available. This made it more difficult to adequately design the data collection. Several countries used a subsample of persons not born in the country to collect extra information needed for the AHM. This has resulted in missing data for some non-nationals and natives. Also for countries not having such a subsample it was difficult to design an elegant set of questions since the focus shifted from one variable to another. As a consequence complex routings were necessary leading to a higher risk of not fully respecting filters.

3.3. Sample size

The fear of having limited sample sizes for analysing migrants was justified. In table 1, the sample sizes per MS are presented. For many MS the sample size of foreign born is two thousand persons or less: BG, CZ, DK, EE, CY, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, and FI. Most of these countries have carried out the short version. The number of persons with the father or mother foreign born is a bit higher but not much.

Table 1. Sample size LFS AHM 2008

	Total 15-74 years	Foreign born	Father foreign born	Mother foreign born
	x 1 000			
EU-27	1224	85	99	98
EU-15	758	73	79	80
NMS12	466	12	19	19
BE	20	3	4	4
BG	28	0	0	0
CZ	36	1	2	2
DK	20	1	1	1
DE	46	7	6	6
EE	18	2	5	4
IE	55	8	7	7
EL	56	4	5	5
ES	78	6	5	5
FR	44	5	9	9
IT	127	7	6	7
CY	8	1	1	1
LV	7	1	1	1
LT	12	0	1	1
LU	11	3	4	4
HU	228	4	5	5
MT	5	0	0	0
NL	84	8	13	12
AT	27	3	4	4
PL	40	0	1	1
PT	33	2	1	1
RO	48	0	0	0
SI	13	1	2	2
SK	22	0	1	0
FI	23	1	0	0
SE	49	4	4	4
UK	86	10	11	10
NO	20	2	1	1
CH	43	19	22	23

Data for DE refer to nationality not to country of birth

The small sample sizes allow only for little detail, especially for the 12 new MS. However when all new MS are aggregated a reasonable sample size is formed. Also for the EU-15 sample sizes are limited for several countries: PT, FI, DK, LU, AT and BE. This will have consequences for the output. For instance, unemployment by country of birth will be based on a small sample.

In the country quality reports no remarks were made about inadequacies of the sample frame for collecting information on migrants. Apparently this was not considered a major issue for the countries.

3.4. Response rate

Beforehand, several MS remarked that it is difficult to get high response rates among migrants. It is likely that this is the case. However if this is so, it also has implications for the core LFS. The labour status differs strongly for migrants compared to natives and between migrants for different origin. If these groups differ strongly in response behaviour it will bias the results of the labour market situation of the whole population. Therefore this issue should be taken seriously in any case and not only for the AHM 2008.

In the quality reports not much is said about response problems. Only AT, FI and NO mention having had problems of lower response rates among migrants in their report. This does not mean that other MS do not have this problem. For many MS it will be difficult to assess because they use addresses as sample units. Response rates by country of birth are not easy to calculate. This hides the problem. However given the plausible results of important variables in the AHM, the LFS seems to be able to catch migrants and descendants of migrants to a reasonable extent.

3.5. Other measurement issues

For DE the LFS is compulsory but the AHM is voluntary. As a consequence there is a high share of 'no answer' for most of the AHM variables. Since DE is a large country with many migrants this is problematic for analysis on EU level.

In FR the situation was similar to that of DE. In order to collect the information necessary for the AHM an additional set of questions were added to the LFS for persons born abroad. This subsample had a non-response rate of 11%. For this a special weight was constructed.

Also the UK shows a high share of 'no answers' for all AHM variables. This was the result of the fact mentioned before that the module was only implemented for persons less than 70 years of age. As a result, the information is missing for persons 70-74 years of age.[2]

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[2] Initially data for more cases were missing in the UK data. The module was carried out in Q2 only. A large proportion of 'no answer' would be from people who did not respond in this wave, but have responded in previous waves, and so have had their core LFS data brought forward from the previous quarter. However, because the ad hoc module questions were not asked in the previous quarter, there is no data to bring forward for these cases, and so they were coded as missing on the ad hoc module questions and derived variables. This problem was solved by deleting these cases from the sample and adjusting the weights.

Some MS mention that proxy answering is a problem with several variables (CZ, IE). Probably for this reason some MS (e.g. AT, FR and PT) did not allow proxy answering in this AHM for some or all variables. .

Several MS mentioned that the filters were too complex to implement. This was especially problematic in MS that still use paper questionnaires like EL.

Language problems are mentioned by IE only. For other MS this is also a potential problem. A number of countries used questionnaires or introductory letter in several languages to address this problem. This is however costly and has only limited effect. To use multi-lingual interviewers seems to be another good way to deal with this. In practice this was used very limitedly by the countries.

Several countries pre-tested the AHM before starting the fieldwork. This was considered extremely helpful. Both the target group as the variables were delicate and the results are sensitive to the fieldwork strategy and the wording of the questions.

3.6. Recommendations on general measurement issues

3.6.1. Target population

The first recommendation would be to consider restricting a LFS AHM to use an upper limit of 64 years in the target population instead of 74 as used in the 2008 AHM. It makes the module hardly less relevant and reduces some measurement issues since data is less easy to collect for elderly.

The second recommendation regarding the target population is to better focus the variables that specify the population of interest. In particular a choice should be using country of birth or nationality as to distinguish between the relevant sub populations and the variables that concern them. From a data collection point of view country of birth seems to be the most logical concept to use. It is the simplest concept and does not change in time. Furthermore it is the concept most logically associated with the population of migrants by respondents. Thirdly it would be consistent with the concept of second generation migrants. Finally, nationality has a strong relation with legal issues. These are difficult to measure in an LFS as will be shown in the sections dealing with these variables. If one does not use nationality to define sub-populations of interest, it may be possible to avoid including any variables on legal issues.

3.6.2. Sampling design

Several countries used subsamples of the core LFS for the AHM. For instance when the core LFS is compulsory but the AHM is voluntary. In principle this not a big problem if accompanied by an appropriate weighting method that gives representative totals. For some countries this was initially not the case. The cases that were not in the AHM sample were coded blank in the data file. This is not correct. Blanks should be used for item non-response and not unit non-response. Another recommendation in case the AHM is voluntary but the core LFS is not is to let respondents only decide to participate in the whole AHM or not at all. Now respondents were allowed to decide this per variable in some cases. This results in many non answers without possibility to correct this via a weighting structure. France used sub sampling for some variables and provided special weights that should be used for these variables while the others had the normal weight. This type of design is not in line with the AHM regulation. Only one weight can be

included in the data file for the whole AHM (sub) sample to be used for all variables. In case of future repetitions a design should be used for the AHM where the sub sample is the same for all variables so that only one AHM weight can be used.

A related issue concerns not allowing proxy answering for certain variables (PT). This is a similar case resulting in too many blanks for specific variables. It would be better not to allow proxy for the whole module ad done in Austria. This could of course mean re-approaching the household to get answers from all members. It is not good practice to determine during the interview not to ask questions to a person because he/she was not at home. This will result in a selective sample of persons since the persons present in the household are generally in different labour market situations than persons not present. In order to avoid problems with proxy answering at all in the future, it would be preferable to define variables that could be asked by proxy.

Sample sizes of migrants were low for several countries. This is unfortunate. It would be a good idea that sample sizes could be increased in case of the AHM on migrants. Migrants tend to be concentrated in urban areas. So for the period of the fieldwork of the AHM it could be considered to oversample in those areas. In order to able to determine the adequate sample size, precision requirements are needed. For the AHM 2008 no precision requirements were defined beforehand. When repeating this AHM these should be available.

3.6.3. Short version of the module

The regulation on the AHM 2008 permitted a number of Member States to carry out the short version of the module consisting of the first four variables. This is very unfortunate from the users' perspective. The additional variables in the long version allowed more in-depth analysis of the labour market situation of migrants. The argument was that the numbers are so small in these countries that it was not worth to carry out an extensive survey. This is only valid at national level but not at EU level. Most of the new Member States only carried out the short version. But an aggregate of NMS12 is valid from an analytical point of view and has a sufficiently large sample. Therefore the recommendation is not allowing a short version of the AHM on migrants in case of repetitions. When designing this module efforts must be made to make the module easy to implement. Care must be taken to define variables that are simple and easy to ask so they can be implemented without much work. Furthermore when developing new variables, one could think about defining variables that are also relevant in the countries that now have carried out the short version.

3.6.4. Field work issues

Filters were complex for several variables. For future repetitions simpler filters should be defined. This applies for some specific variables. Moreover, it should be avoided to have many different kinds of filters for each of the variables. In order to design a module that is easy to implement, the variables should be relevant to the same sub-populations. Preferably only filtering on country of birth and not on both country of birth and nationality should be used in the AHM.

No model questionnaire was provided. This was unfortunate. In particular for the variables in the long module this would have been necessary. These variables were sensitive in wording. Analysis has shown that there was too much variation in the way the AHM 2008 questions were formulated. This led to less comparable results. In case of

future repetitions of the AHM a model questionnaire must be provided. Its wording could be based on the experiences in this AHM and tests carried out by Member States.

The fieldwork strategy should be appropriate to increase response among migrants and get high quality answers. It is advised to use multi-lingual introductory letters, questionnaires and interviewers if possible. For the AHM 2008 not many specific actions were undertaken in the fieldwork strategy to get high quality result among migrants. It is recommended to put more effort in this. Such a fieldwork strategy would also be beneficial for the core LFS in general. Migrants are an important category with a precarious labour market situation. High quality data is therefore important.

4. SPECIFIC MEASUREMENT ISSUES PER VARIABLE

4.1. YEARCITI (column 203/206)

The variable year of acquisition of citizenship (YEARCITI) was problematic for the Baltic States, but also for SK and CZ for evident historical reasons. Most countries did not mention measurement problems. However, it is obvious that the year of acquisition of citizenship is not easy to answer when it happened a long time ago and in case of proxy answering. Furthermore ES, PL and RO have a high number of no answers for this variable which could be an indication of some measurement issues.

The most important question to answer is if this variable gives substantial additional information compared to what is already available in the core LFS variables like nationality and years of residence. First nationality is considered. Of course almost all nationals are citizen by birth. Only in CY and SI a substantial number of nationals are coded as national since creation of country/redefinition of borders. In the latter case virtually all nationals are coded as such. This is not illogical. But since other countries in a similar situation apparently did not use this code it is not very informative on EU level. For most countries the share of nationals by acquisition is very small. Only for three countries this share is significant with 10% or more: EE, LU and EE.

For the persons not born in the country the years of residence is available in the core LFS. For most analyses this would probably be an appropriate variable to use in these cases. YEARCITI has the most added value for the category persons born in the country but with foreign nationality. This group is very small on EU level and also within virtually all countries. Only in BE, EE, LV and LU it amounts to significant numbers. So the additional value is again quite limited.

Table 2. YEARCITI, % of target population

	National at birth	National since creation country	National by acquisition		No answer
			Year known	Year unknown	
EU-27	96	1	3	0	0
EU-15	96	0	4	0	0
NMS12	96	2	1	0	1
BE	91	0	6	2	1
BG	100	0	0	0	0
CZ	98	0	2	0	0
DK	96	0	2	2	0
DE	93	0	6	1	0
EE	87	2	11	0	0
IE	98	0	2	0	0
EL	99	0	1	0	0
ES	97	0	2	0	1
FR	96	0	3	1	0
IT	99	0	1	0	0
CY	57	40	3	0	0
LV	95	0	5	0	0
LT	97	0	1	2	0
LU	90	0	9	1	0
HU	99	0	1	0	0
MT	98	0	2	0	0
NL	94	0	6	0	0
AT	92	0	8	0	0
PL	99	0	0	0	1
PT	98	0	1	0	0
RO	96	0	0	0	4
SI	0	99	1	0	0
SK	99	1	0	0	0
FI	99	0	1	0	0
SE	90	0	9	1	0
UK	96	0	4	0	0
NO	94	0	4	0	1
CH	88	0	11	1	0

It can be concluded that the added value of YEARCITI compared to the existing core LFS variables NATIONAL and YEARESID is limited. The category that acquired citizenship is small. Most of them are born abroad, for which years of residence seem to be more relevant. Moreover the category 'national since the creation of the country' was not applied consistently. Furthermore, asking for the exact year of acquisition is not without quality problems. It is recommended that this variable in the current form is reconsidered. The most interesting element is the acquisition of citizenship. Maybe it is a good idea to elaborate on the pathways by requiring this citizenship in a new type of variable. It is also maybe an option to extend the core LFS variable NATIONAL with the notion of acquisition of citizenship.

Table 3. YEARCITI by YEARESID, % of target population

| | National at birth | | National by acquisition | | Non-national |
	Born in this country	Not born in country	Born in this country	Not born in country	
EU-27	88.8	1.6	0.3	2.8	6.5
EU-15	86.4	1.9	0.3	3.4	7.9
NMS12	97.7	0.4	0.2	0.7	1.1
BE	82.9	1.3	3.2	4.5	8.1
BG	99.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
CZ	96.9	0.2	0.1	1.7	1.1
DK	93.7	0.1	0.0	2.2	4.0
DE	81.4	2.8	0.5	5.7	9.6
EE	71.6	1.5	5.1	3.9	17.9
IE	81.6	2.0	0.0	1.9	14.5
EL	91.8	0.9	0.0	0.8	6.4
ES	84.2	1.0	0.1	1.5	13.3
FR	87.4	3.1	0.4	3.2	5.9
IT	91.9	1.2	0.0	1.0	5.9
CY	80.3	1.2	0.3	2.5	15.6
LV	75.1	1.8	2.3	1.9	18.9
LT	96.4	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.4
LU	50.5	0.9	2.8	2.8	43.0
HU	98.0	0.3	0.0	1.0	0.7
MT	94.7	0.7	0.0	1.5	3.1
NL	86.8	3.3	0.6	4.9	4.2
AT	81.5	0.9	1.2	5.5	10.8
PL	99.2	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.2
PT	92.0	2.5	0.0	1.5	4.0
RO	99.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
SI	91.3	6.0	0.1	1.3	1.3
SK	99.0	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.2
FI	96.5	0.7	0.2	0.8	1.8
SE	85.7	0.3	0.3	9.0	4.7
UK	87.2	1.3	0.0	3.7	7.8
NO	89.7	0.0	0.0	4.2	6.1
CH	67.2	1.0	3.1	6.5	22.2

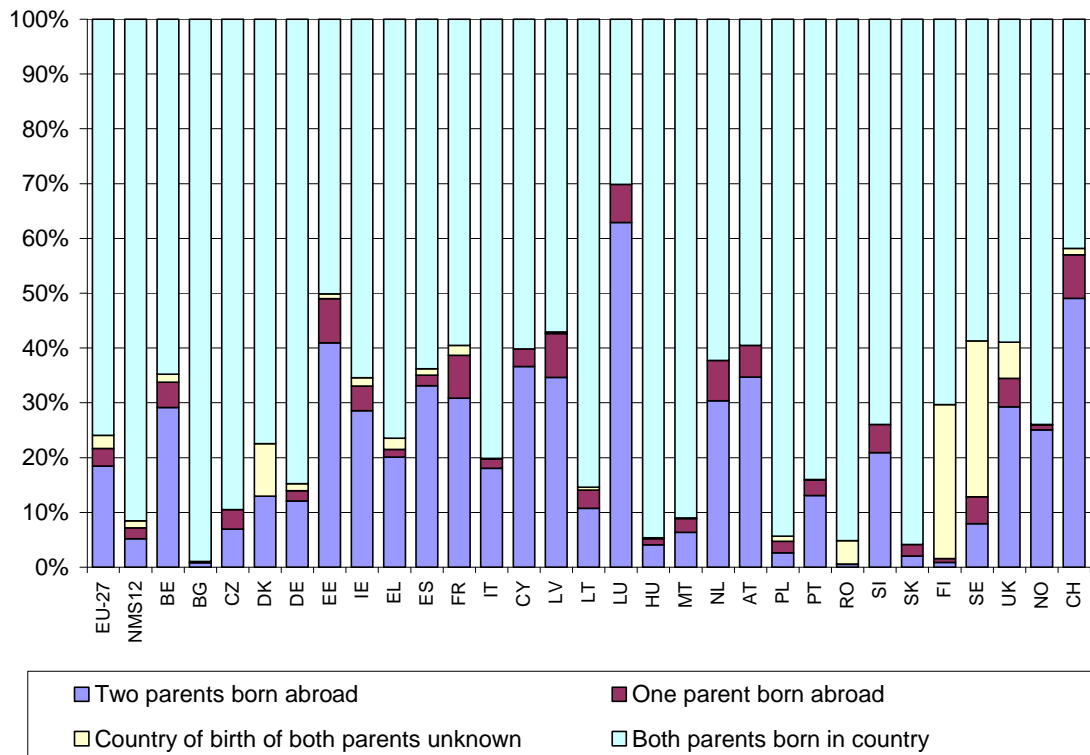## 4.2. COBFATH and COBMOTH (columns 207/208 and 209/210)

4.2.1. Analysis of results

Country of birth of the father and the mother was measured in most countries without major problems. There were substantial problems only for the Nordic countries SE, DK and FI with high shares of unknown country of birth of the parents. This is caused by the fact that this information was derived from the population registers. These registers go back only for a number of years. For persons that arrived a long time ago, no information is available on the parents. Also the aggregate of the 12 new Member States has a relatively high share of unknown. This is almost fully determined by RO[3] and PL with a very high share of 'no answer'. In absolute numbers the persons for which the country of birth of both parents is unknown is also high in DE, FR and the UK. Finally, the special code for a father/mother born abroad but in an unknown country has not been overused. These shares are low for all countries.

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[3] In case of Rumania this concerns persons abroad for a long time according to the grant report.

A specific issue relates to DE. Country of birth is sensitive in that country because of the Germans that were re-settled because of WW II. For this reason, nationality of the parents is measured instead of country of birth.
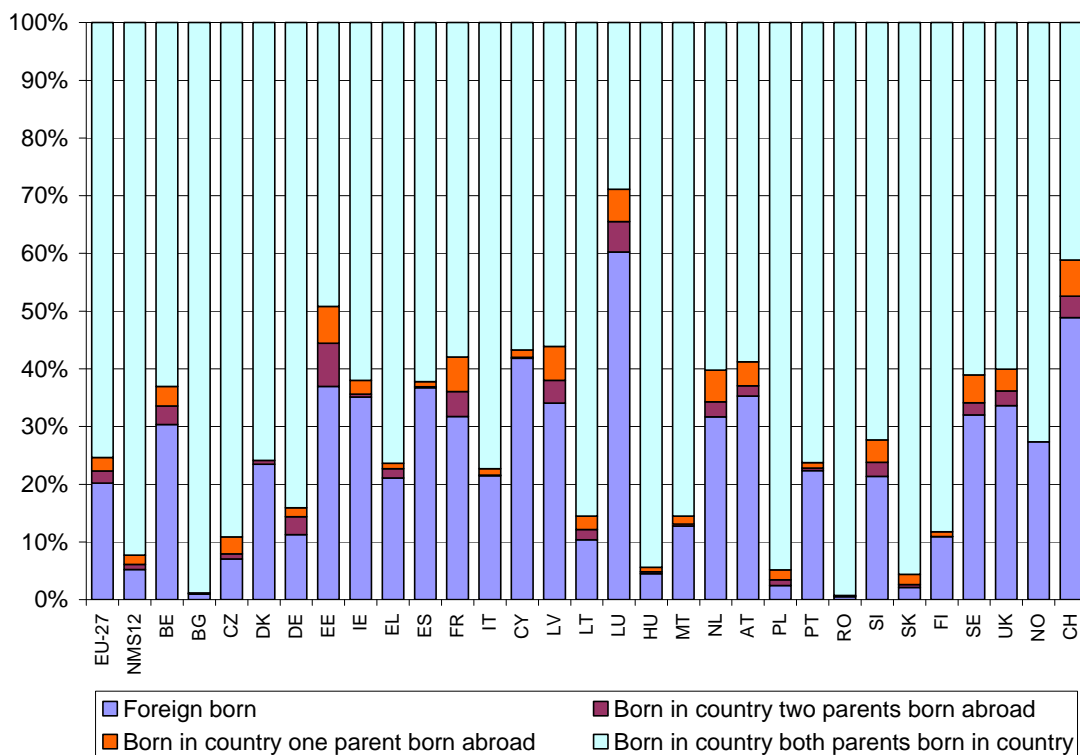
Figure 1. Country of birth parents, % 15-74 years

The share of persons 15-74 years of age with one or two parents born abroad differs considerably between countries. The group seems to be very small in new Member States like BG, HU, MT, PL and SK with shares lower than 10%. Of the older Member States only Finland shows a small share. On the other end of the scale, the shares are substantial in BE, EE, IE, ES, CY, LV, LU, NL, AT, UK and CH with shares of more than 30%.

By combining the variable COBMOTH and COBFATH it is possible to define 2nd generation migrants: a person born in the host country whose parents are born abroad. The main purpose of including these variables in the AHM is to identify this category of persons. Although the share of persons with foreign parents is substantial in several countries, most of the persons with foreign born person are born abroad themselves being first generation migrants. On EU level only 4% of the population 15-74 years of age are second generation migrants: born in the country with one or both parents foreign born. Second generation migrants amount to 10% or more in EE, FR and LU. They are also a substantial group in BE, LV, NL, AT, SI, SE, UK and CH. Although the share is around average in Germany, this country still accounts for one third of all second generation migrants in the EU. As known in IT and ES migration is a relative recent phenomenon what results in low shares of second generation migrants. For Norway no second generation migrants were measured. This is the result of the Nordic problem relying on registers. In Norway apparently the registers did not allow for identifying second generation migrants.
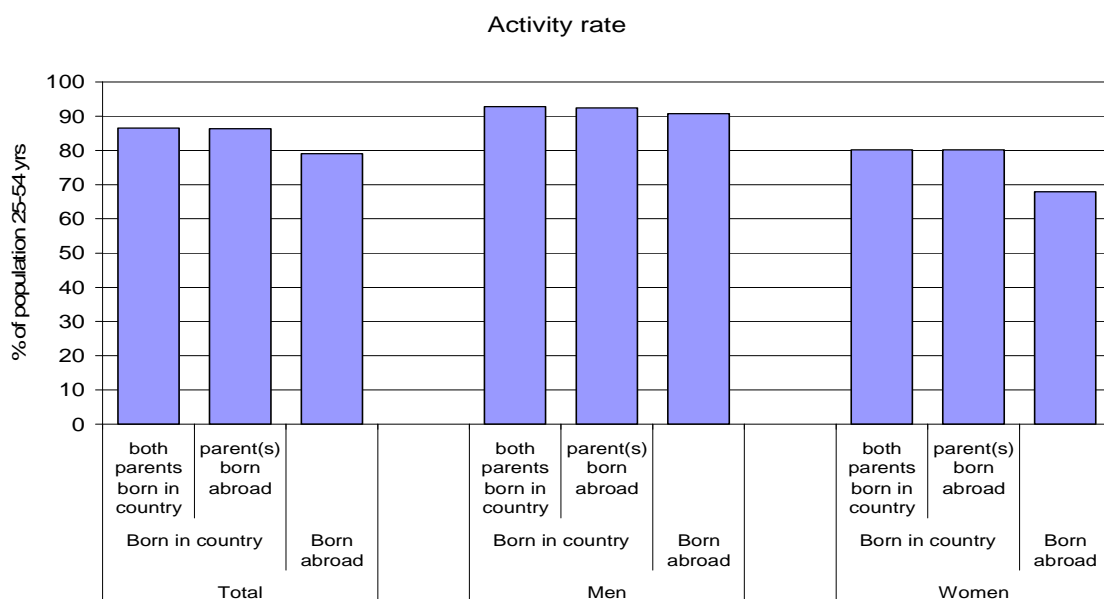
All in all, the results to measure the second generation seems to be quite plausible for most countries. Only the Nordic countries show severe measurement problems with a high risk of underestimation. This suggests that it is not enough to rely only on registers.

Figure 2. Country of birth parents by country birth person, % 15-74 years

To identify second generation migrants is extremely important for labour market analysis. This can be illustrated showing some basic results for the EU. First and second generation migrants are compared with persons with both parents born in the country. To avoid bias in the comparison the age 25-54 years is considered.
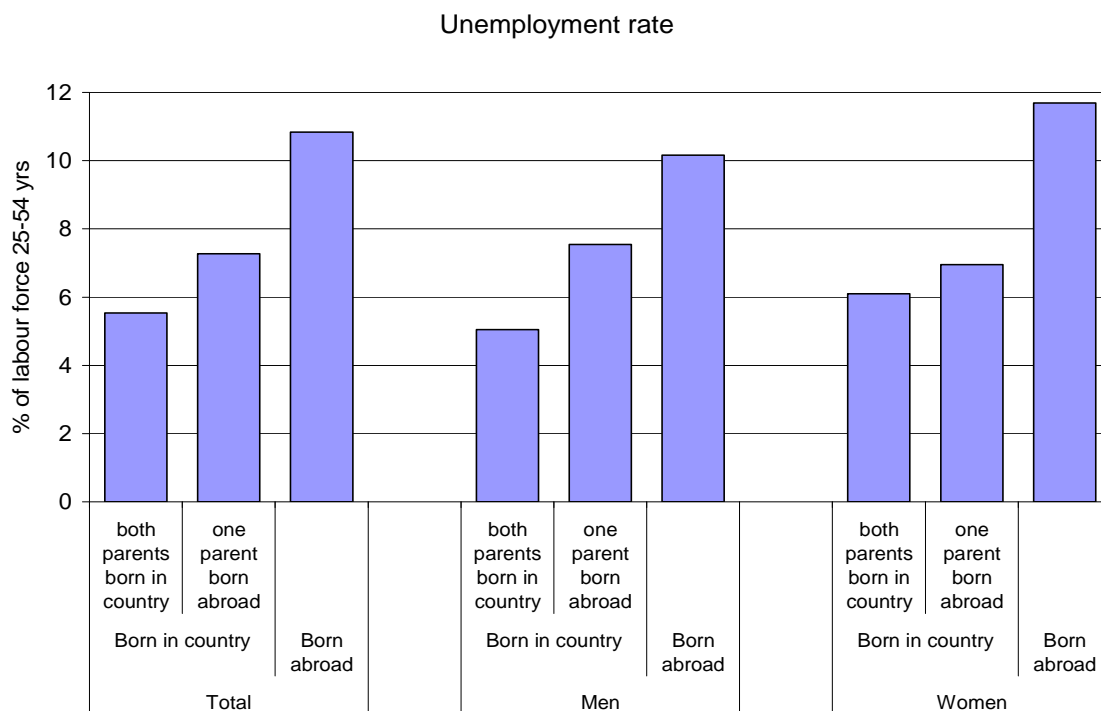
Figure 3. Activity rate by country of birth of parents

The activity rate of second generation migrants is on average similar to that of natives. First generation migrants have lower rates. This is especially the case for women. The activity rate of 25-54 year old women was 80% for persons born in country independently of where the parents were born but less than 70% for first generation migrants.

Regarding the unemployment the situation for second generation migrants is less favourable. Both for men and women 25-54 years of age second generation migrants faced higher unemployment in 2008 compared to persons with both parents born in the country.

Figure 4. Activity rate by country of birth of parents

Unemployment rate

When the country of origin of the parents is considered more interesting results are visible. There are clear differences visible within the group of second generation migrants depending on the country of birth of the parents. This background is essential in explaining differences in labour market situation of first and second generation migrants

4.2.2. Conclusions and recommendations

It can be concluded that country of birth of the parents can be measured within the LFS satisfactorily. Only the Nordic countries showed severe measurement issues due to the use of registers. Furthermore, it can be concluded that these variables provide essential information for labour market analysis. They enable to identify second generation migrants. This is a substantial group with a precarious labour market situation both on EU level as in many EU countries. Following this reasoning it would be logical to include these variables in the core LFS. As long as this is not implemented including them in an AHM on migrants seems imperative.

Another recommendation about country of birth of the parents is that more efforts should be made to reduce the numbers of persons for which this is unknown. This is in particular

relevant for the Nordic countries but also for other countries. In case of Germany country of birth of the parents should be measured and not nationality of the parents.

4.3. TOTRESID (column 211/212)

The core LFS measures how long a migrant has been living in the host country since the last arrival, YEARESID. In the AHM an additional variable was included to try to measure how long in total a migrant has been resident in the host country including previous periods of stay in the host country. This was considered important to in order to distinguish true recent arrivals from recurrent arrivals.

A number of countries reported problems measuring this variable. Obviously, it is more difficult to measure this variable than the core variable that concerns the most recent entry. It is not easy to answer correctly especially in case of proxies (mentioned by LV and AT). Furthermore, the variable is in many cases the same as YEARESID in the core LFS and in all case strongly related. This makes it not easy to implement in the questionnaire. Many respondents could have the feeling that they are asked the same question twice during the interview. In case of register based measurement this variable is even more difficult to collect than the core variable. For this reason FI copied the information of YEARESID.

Several countries mention that the variable gives not enough additional information compared to YEARESID. The idea is that TOTRESID should improve the information currently collected with the core variable YEARESID. This is easy to check. The variable has added value if there are substantial numbers that are classified as new entrants with YEARESID but in fact are returners with a long history in the host country. For this reason, it is checked with the data how many migrants residing only a few years according to YEARESID have a longer history according to TOTRESID. From the table it is clear that the numbers with these cases are very low. After further analysis it becomes clear these cases are substantial in Belgium only. In that country apparently a substantial number of recent migrants have a residence of much longer: even more than 20 years. If the EU excluding Belgium is considered the numbers are negligible. Moreover the no answer category is even bigger than the potential misclassified cases. This shows that this AHM variable has not added much value to the core variable.

For this variable TOTRESID the situation is clear. It involves serious measurement issues. So the quality is doubtful. Moreover it has no real added value compared to the core variable in the LFS on years of residence. The recommendation is therefore that this variable should not be used for analysis and for publication. The core variable YEARESID should be used instead for these purposes.

Furthermore, in case of a repetition of the module on migrants this variable should not be included. As alternative one could imagine a simpler variable to measure if it was a case of re-immigration or the number of times of re-immigration. Since re-migration seems to be rare anyway the best option seems to be not to define an alternative at all.

Table 4. TOTRESID by YEARESID

		TOTRESID					
		01 to 04	05 to 09	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 99	No answer
		x 1000					
YEARESID							
EU27	1	1097	63	33	22	131	120
	2	1512	23	8	6	9	63
	3	1378	49	7	3	13	56
	4	1382	79	8	5	11	52
	5	2	1567	5	6	8	49
	6		1555	19	5	10	57
	7		1777	18	7	10	51
	8		1593	24	10	9	42
	9		1326	71	15	7	29
BE	1	63	33	22	17	125	4
	2	39	1	0			
	3	34	0				
	4	25	1				0
	5		31				
	6		27	0			0
	7		27		1	0	
	8		27	0			0
	9		25	1			0
EU27 excl BE	1	1033	30	11	5	6	116
	2	1473	22	8	6	9	63
	3	1343	49	7	3	13	56
	4	1358	77	8	5	11	52
	5	2	1536	5	6	8	49
	6		1528	19	5	10	56
	7		1750	18	7	10	51
	8		1566	24	10	9	42
	9		1301	70	15	7	29

4.4. MIGREAS (column 213)

4.4.1. Analysis of the questionnaires

The variable Reason for migration (MIGREAS) was asked quite similarly by countries. Only France asked a multiple choice question and a second question to select the main reasons. All other countries asked about the main reason directly. In a number of countries the initial question was followed by one or two successive questions to gather more information on the employment related reasons (IE, NL, UK, NO and CH). Ireland asked also an extra question for the family reasons and IT for international protection.
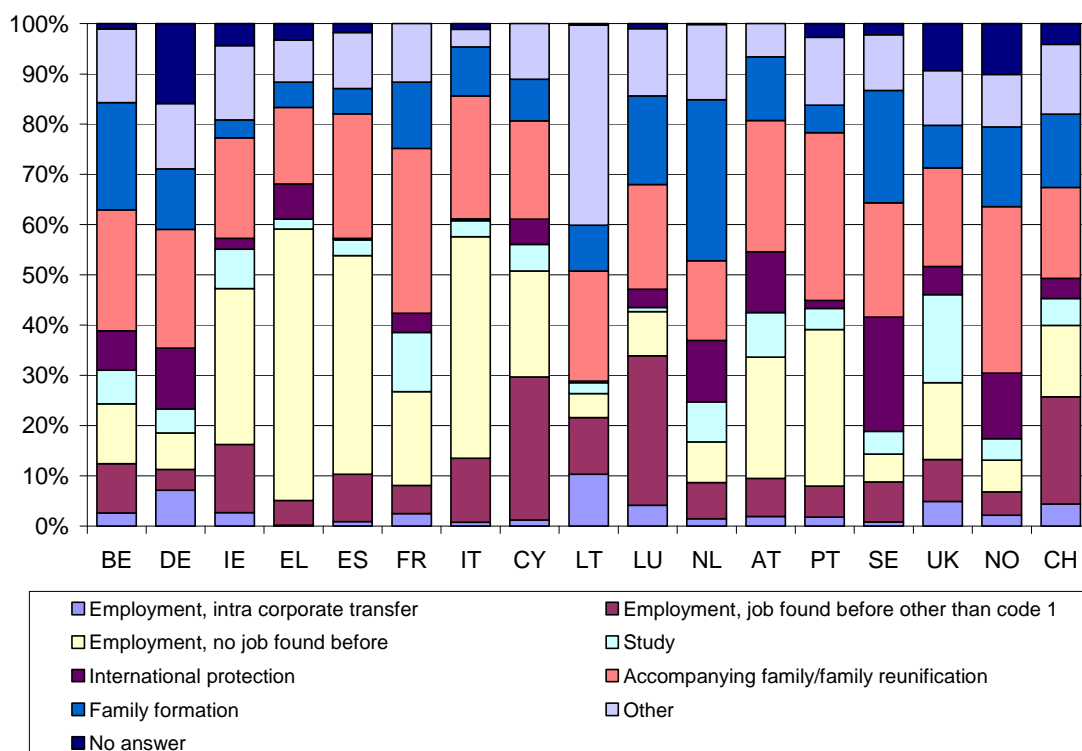
Some additional small wording issues can be identified. In Lithuania the reason for emigration from the sending country was asked instead of reason for immigrating. While not fully equal this should not lead to strongly deviating results. The label of international protection differed in the answering categories between countries. This could lead to a bit divergent results. Code 7 varied from family formation in general to marriage specifically. This could have a small effect on the results.

All in all the way this variable was measured quite similarly by the countries. This should allow for fairly comparable results.

4.4.2. Analysis of results

The shares of no answers were high in DE, UK and NO. This is mainly the result of the design of the survey that the questions were not asked to the whole population. It is not because of difficulties in answering the questions.
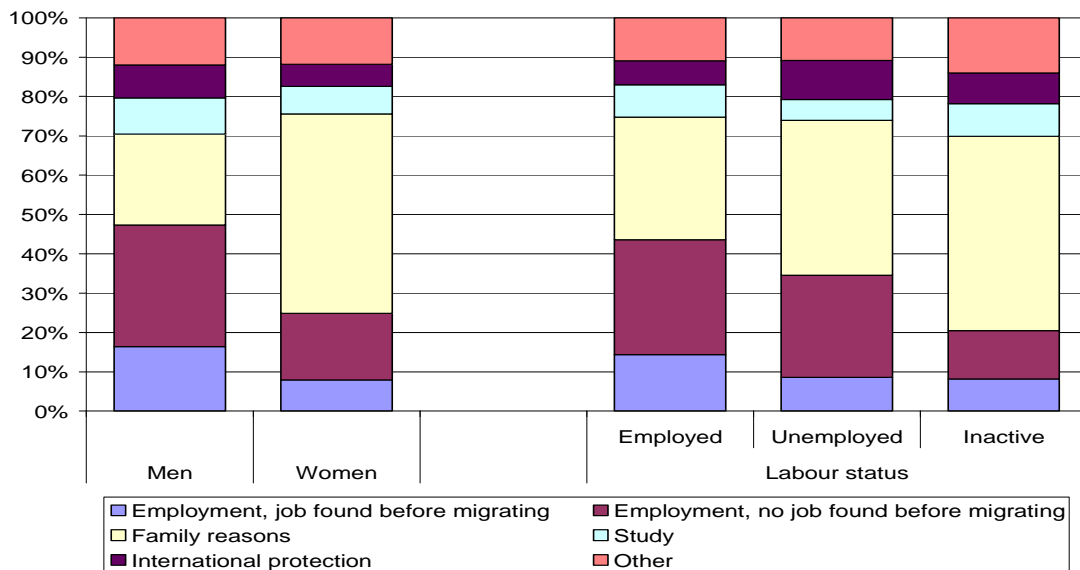
Figure 5. MIGREAS, % of target population

The data on the main reason for migration give quite plausible results in general. In countries with a recent tradition of immigration like IE, EL, ES, IT, LU, AT and PT the employment related reasons are the most important ones. In most cases no job was found before was the highest which is also very likely. For Luxemburg the job was found before was relatively high. In countries with a longer tradition of migration, family reasons are more frequent (BE, DE, FR, NL, SE and UK). International protection as main reason seems to be substantial in DE, NL, AT and SE. This is highly plausible. The share of the category 'intra-corporate transfer' is small in virtually all countries.

The share of 'other' reasons is very high in Lithuania. In the country grant report on AHM 2008 it is mentioned that this concerns voluntary immigration e.g. when persons of retirement age come to Lithuania in search of cheaper living, better climatic conditions, health care system, greater public safety. It most probably will be also related with migration at the time of the Soviet Union for which the other answering categories are apparently not fully appropriate. The share of other reasons is also quite high in many other countries. In most countries it is 10-15 percent.

The fact that this variable gives plausible and interesting results is further illustrated when the breakdowns by sex and labour status are produced for EU total for all countries that participated. For men, job employment reasons are most important while for women

family reasons are the most important reasons for immigrating. Among the employed migrants that migrated for employment reasons are in the majority while for the inactive family reasons are more important.

Figure 6. MIGREAS by sex and labour status

4.4.3. Conclusions and recommendations

The variable on reasons for migration gives plausible and interesting results. Furthermore, no severe measurement issues were identified. It can therefore be concluded that this variable should be kept in case of future repetitions. There is enough reason to extend the measurement of this variable to all EU countries. It is a logical variable and not a burdensome question to ask to migrants.

Because of the positive experiences with this variable extending its scope in case of repetition of the module could also be envisaged. Already several member states asked additional questions on employment or family reasons. It seems a good idea to split this variable in two to have more detail on both employment and family reasons.

Some additional points can be mentioned to improve the variable(s). The explanatory notes concerning code 6 to distinguish it from 7 is very complicated. This can not be incorporated in a simple answering category. Work should be done to make this more simple and usable in practice. Furthermore, harmonisation on the wording of answering categories would be desirable to increase comparability. Now there seem to be some unnecessary differences in wording regarding international protection and family reasons. It is also necessary to decrease the number of migrants that answer 'other reasons'. An attempt should be made to identify relevant other categories. The experiences with this module should make this possible.

Another idea is to simplify the filter. Currently the filter excludes persons that entered the country before 15 years of age. The variable could be extended to all persons 15-74 years of age in the household born abroad. Such children could actually be unaccompanied minors seeking asylum or children accompanying their family.

4.5. DURLIM (column 214)

4.5.1. Analysis of the questionnaires

The variable DURLIM consists of two elements: if the residence permit is limited and if so what is the duration of the permit. The majority of the countries have used one question to measure it. Some have used 2 or more questions. In IE, ES, AT, and PT it is first asked if the permit is of limited duration and if so the duration is asked. In BE, DE and UK technically it is one question but the answering categories are explicitly nested. In practice it probably worked the same as having two separate questions. In IT, SE and NO it is first asked if migrants have a permit and subsequently what the duration is. In case of the United Kingdom there was not an explicit mentioning of having a permit. The question on limited duration referred to how long the person can legally stay.
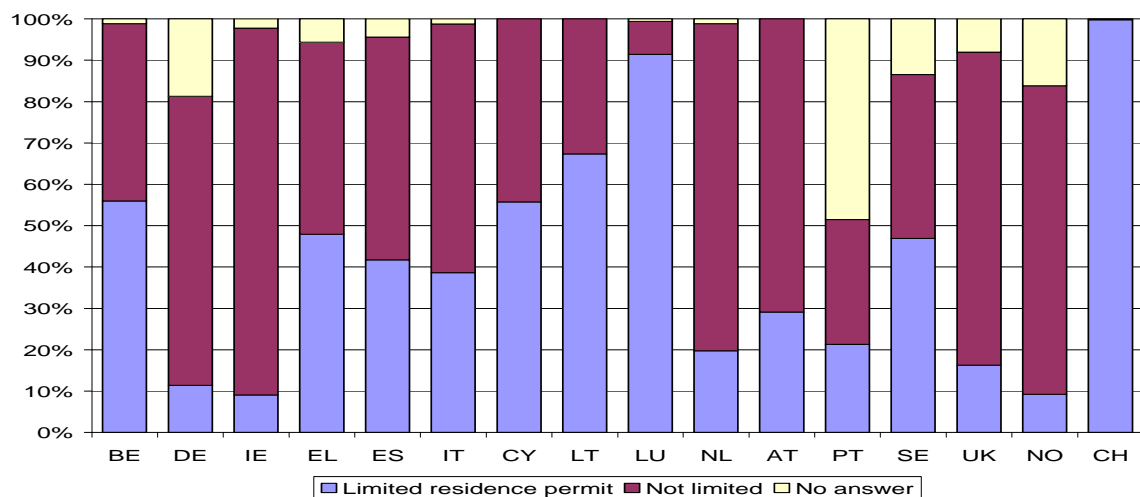
In Switzerland the variable is not really measured by asking questions but is imputed based on country of birth or nationality. SE and NO did not ask for the exact number of years that the permit is valid. Only categories of groups of years were asked. In Spain more than 5 years was not possible to answer

The differences in questions are limited. The main difference is the use of a filter question or not. The most probable effect on the results will be that countries that have used a filter question could have a bit lower share of persons with limited duration permits. In case of one question the limited length of the permit is more prominent probably attracting more answers. As consequence the share of limited durations could be somewhat higher.

4.5.2. Analysis of results

The shares of migrants having residence permits with limited duration vary considerably between the countries. A relative low share of limited permits of 20% or less is visible in DE, IE, NL, UK and NO. High shares of more than 50% are recorded in BE, CY, LT and LU. These differences have no clear link with the differences in wording of the questions. It could be that the interpretation of the question differed between countries. As mentioned before no questions were asked in Switzerland. All non-nationals received the code that the permit was of limited duration.
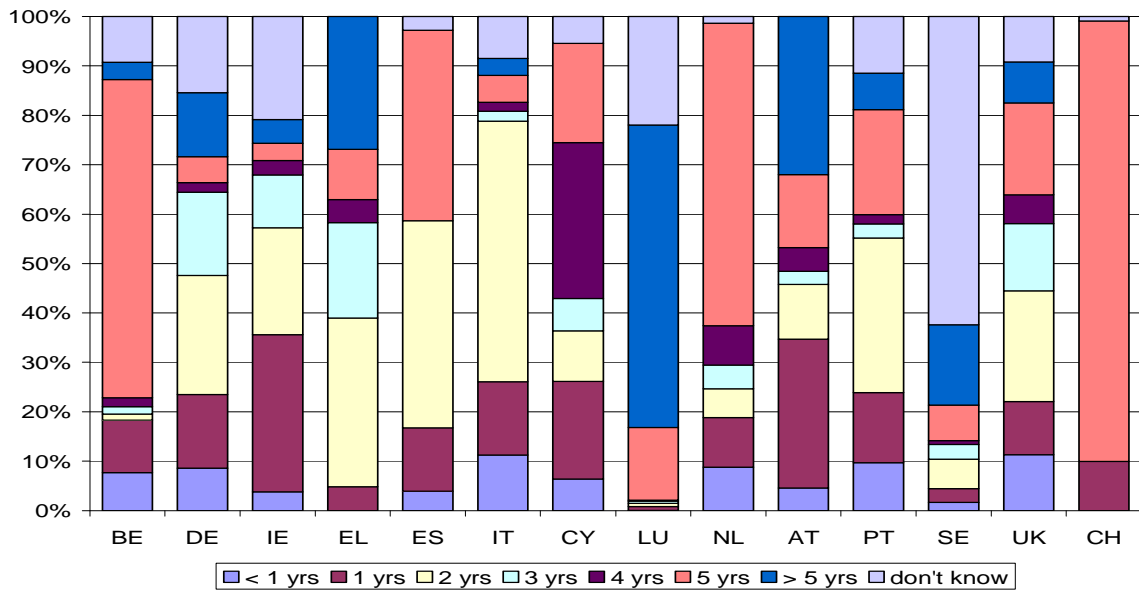
Figure 7. DURLIM limited residence permit, % of target population

Portugal shows a very high share of no answer because proxy answering was not allowed for this variable. This makes the results less valuable. Also DE, SE and UK show relatively many cases of no answers mainly because of sampling design issues.

Non nationals from other EU countries generally have an unlimited residence permit. The results show that this is the case for almost all EU countries. Only LU and BE have high numbers of non-nationals from EU with limited permit. This raises questions on the interpretation of the questions by respondents in those countries. Maybe they referred to the end date on their passport. Thus the rule in the explanatory notes regarding EU citizens seems not to be applied fully in these Member States.
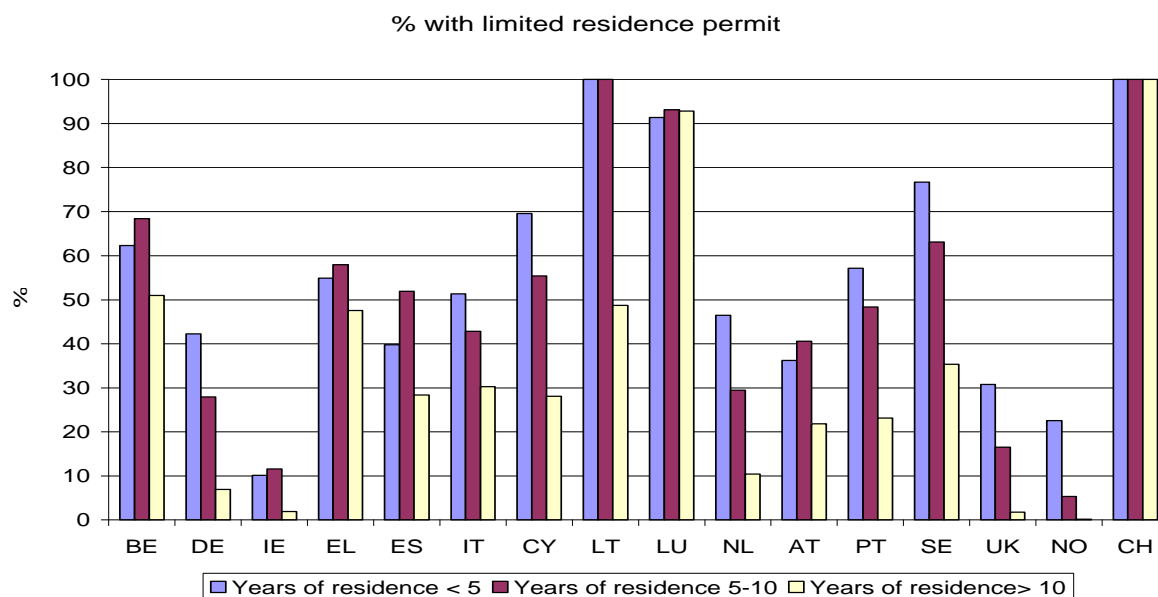
Figure 8. DURLIM duration of residence permit, % of limited duration

The measurement of the duration of the residences permits varies strongly between countries. The high share of unknown duration in Sweden is a result of respondents that don't know if they have a residence permit with limited duration. But in several other countries this share is also high (DE, IE, LU, PT and UK). This is a sign that the duration is quite difficult to know for respondents. In some countries more than 5 years is not allowed because of legal restrictions while in other countries this is the highest share. This could be another indication that the interpretation differs substantially between countries. The deviant shares of Switzerland are the result of their method of imputing the variable instead of asking questions.

To further assess the quality of the variable a breakdown by years of residence is made. One would expect that the longer the years of residence in the country the longer the permit is valid. This is the case in the majority of the countries. However not in BE, IE, EL, ES, LT, LU, AT and CH. It is another indication that the quality of this variable is limited.

Figure 9. DURLIM duration of residence permit by YEARESID, % of limited duration

% with limited residence permit

4.5.3. Conclusions and recommendations

In general, variables related to the legal situation are difficult to measure via a survey. Respondents are often not sufficiently aware of their legal situation or reluctant to inform others about it. As a consequence, the results for this specific variable are not fully satisfactory. There is evidence that the exact duration of the permit seems to be difficult to recollect for respondents. Moreover whether a residence permit was of limited duration was not measured consistently between countries. There is a high variability and in specific cases there is suspicion of incorrect interpretation of the questions.

Because of these measurement issues it is recommended not to include this variable in case of repetition of the module. An alternative that could be considered is just to measure the existence of a specific work permit or not. This simplified variable would probably be less cumbersome to measure.

4.6. RESTRACC (column 215)

4.6.1. Analysis of the questionnaires

The variable is measured in various ways by countries. Five countries (IE, ES, NL, PT and NO) used a general filter question on restriction and subsequently asked for the kind of restrictions. In 5 additional countries (BE, DE, LT, LU and UK) one question was used with a clear hierarchical set of answering categories, most probably resulting in splitting the variable in two questions in practice during the interview process.

Five countries explicitly referred to the current work permit (EL, IT, AT, PT and SE). The other countries referred to legal restrictions in general in their question. Five countries asked separate questions to measure all restrictions (IE, EL, NL, SE and NO) while some others used multiple choice questions. In BE, ES, LT, LU and PT the combination categories of the variable were copied in answering categories of the question concerned.

Three countries did not ask any questions to measure the variable. Given the complexity of the information requested, FR chose not to question respondents on this variable, but

rather to use information in the core LFS on the highest qualification obtained, the specialization recognized by the diploma, and the respondent's nationality. In CY the question was not asked and all were coded 4 considered to be the most appropriate code. No questions in CH because they consider the variable not suitable for the survey.

Table 5. Differences in ways of implementing RESTRACC

	Filter question	Multiple choice list of options	Separate specific questions	Combination answering categories	One question without multiple choice	Reference to the current work permit
BE	?			x		
DE	?	x				
IE	x		x			
EL			x			x
ES	x			x		
FR						
IT						x
CY						
LT	?			x		
LU	?			x		
NL	x		x			
AT					x	x
PT	x			x		x
SE	x	x	x			x
UK	?	x				
NO	x		x			
CH						

Austria used only one question about the kind of work permit without asking for the type of restrictions. This resulted in only codes 1, 6 and 7. Codes 2-5 were not measured. In EL and SE separate questions were asked to assess the restrictions that migrants encounter. Regarding working as self-employed only was asked if the permit allows working only as self-employed. Unfortunately it was not checked if the self employment was not allowed. De facto code 3 was not measured. As a consequence code 5 can also not occur. Italy mentioned in the quality report that code 4 is legally impossible. For this reason it is not measured.

4.6.2. Analysis of results

Portugal shows a very high share of no answer because proxy answering was not allowed for this variable. Also in DE there is a high share of no answers. Share of non-nationals that report not to know about the restrictions is high in LU and BE. In addition, it is also high compared to persons reporting restrictions in IE, ES, SE, UK and NO.
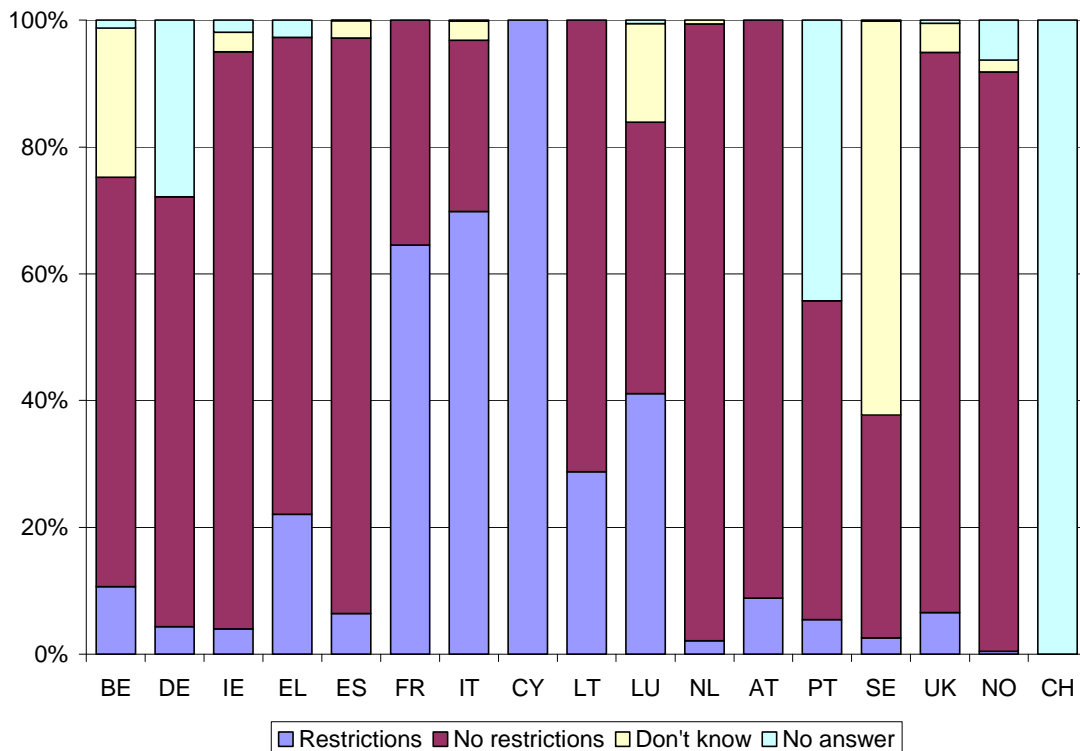
In many counties the share of non-nationals with restrictions seems to be very low (DE, IE, ES, PT, NL, SE, UK and NO). As a consequence in IE, NL, PT, SE and NO the number of persons with restrictions is so low that a breakdown by type of restriction makes no sense. The same applies for Lithuania because of the small number of non-nationals.

In FR and CY the variable is not measured but derived from the core LFS. This apparently results in a high share of persons facing restrictions. It could be questioned if this reflects reality well but in any case it differs from the results of the other countries.

The share of restrictions is also very high in IT. Further analysis of the questionnaire and the transcoding reveals that non-nationals that report in the Italian LFS that they have a stay card and state that they can do all jobs are coded as restricted to specific occupations/sectors since they are not allowed to work in the public sector by law. This is probably theoretically correct but it is mostly likely that similar cases in other countries are coded as having no restrictions. It makes the result not very comparable. In IT only EU non-nationals are coded as having no restrictions. All other non-nationals are considered to have restrictions.
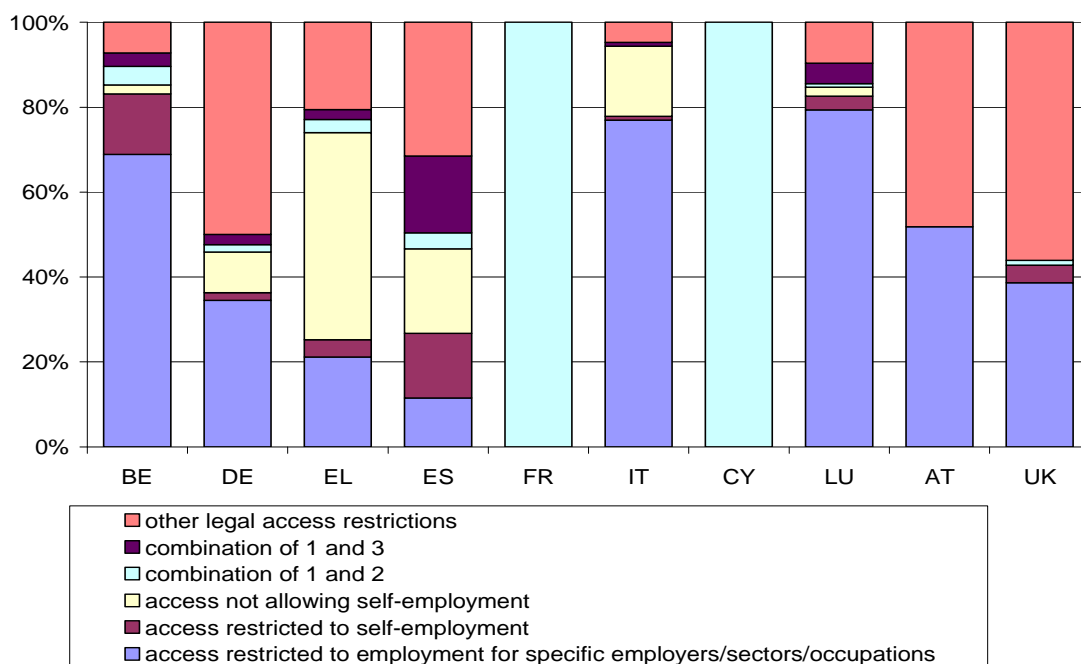
Code 2 and 5 are virtually non existent. In CY and FR only code 4 appears because of the method of derivation since they did not ask questions. In AT only code 1 and 6 are present. In Greece, migrants not experiencing limitations with regard to specific employers or professions and work is not restricted to self employment only were coded as 3. That explains the relatively high score but is not correct. Code 6 would be more appropriate. As mentioned earlier in Greece it is not checked if employment excludes self-employment.

Figure 10. RESTRACC existence of restrictions, % of target population

In IT everyone that did not apply for a residence permit or states that they are not allowed to work is coded as 6. In DE a question is asked about the access to jobs restricted by legal regulations. This question is a bit deviant, hence the high share of other legal restrictions. In UK it is asked about legal restrictions on the access to work without explicit references to work permits. The share of the category 'Yes, other reason' is high. Probably the question is interpreted broadly.

Figure 11. RESTRACC kind of restrictions, % of restrictions

Legend:
- other legal access restrictions
- combination of 1 and 3
- combination of 1 and 2
- access not allowing self-employment
- access restricted to self-employment
- access restricted to employment for specific employers/sectors/occupations

4.6.3. Conclusions and recommendations

The variable RESTACC was implemented very diversely. Some countries did not ask questions or not in full detail. But also the countries that have asked questions used different wording and approach. This limits the usability of this variable considerably.

Several countries mentioned that the variable was difficult to measure (EL, UK, FR and NL). It was argued that this variable measures if the legal restrictions are enforced correctly or the knowledge of the legal situation. Furthermore, it is questioned if respondents would answer honestly since it could be a sensitive topic. Because of the sensitivity shown in the pre-test of the module, FR decided not to ask this information but to construct it based on core LFS information. Apart from FR, also CY and CH have not asked questions at all.

The measurement issues are clearly reflected in the results. They concern both the fact of having restrictions and the kind of restrictions. Several points can be mentioned. IT is clearly an outlier with a high share of persons with restrictions. This result is explainable by the fact that it was measured differently compared to other countries. AT, EL and SE did not measure all categories. Moreover there is high non response in DE and PT. The share of persons that don't know about their restrictions is relatively high in BE and LU. The results show that the share of non-nationals reporting restrictions is quite low in most countries. This makes the variable not very informative. Moreover, the category 'Other restrictions' is high in IE, DE, ES, AT and UK further limiting the information value.

Because of these measurement issues in combination with the limited information value it is recommended not to include this variable in case of repetition of the module. Measuring legal issues via a survey generally does not give satisfactory results. As an alternative variable one could consider measuring the concrete limitations persons experienced in getting work, keeping work or changing work.

4.7. ESTQUALI (column 216)

4.7.1. Analysis of the questionnaires

The variable ESTQUALI is complex. It involves need for action to establish what qualification equates to, awareness of such a system, actions undertaken and the results of these actions. It is obvious that to collect the information more than one question is needed in case of CAPI or CATI questionnaires. Logically one would need at least three questions: one about actions undertaken, one about the results and one about the need for action.

In reality, countries used one to four questions to get this information (table 1). For countries that have designed only one or two questions, it is not clear how the interviewer collected the information. Were more questions asked if the initial answer was insufficiently detailed? And if yes how many and which questions were asked? This problem is particularly relevant for BE, LT, LU and PT since they seem to have used only one question. But also with two questions this problem is apparent. How can codes 4 and 5 correctly be distinguished with one additional question after having asked if the highest qualification is obtained in the host country? The countries involved are: DE, ES, IT, AT and CH. The measurement depends on how respondents answer to the initial question and how interviewers act successively. The exact effect on the results is difficult to assess but it can lead to extra variation in the results.

Table 6. Question order measuring ESTQUALI

Country	Highest qualification in host country	Action undertaken	Results action	Other reason no need for action	Awareness system explicitly mentioned
BE	1	1	1	1	-
DE	1	2	2	2	-
IE	1	2	3a	3b	3b
EL	1	2	3a	3b	3b
ES	1	2	2	2	-
FR	1	2	3a	3b	3b
IT	1	2	2	2	-
CY	2b	1	2a	2b	-
LT	1	1	1	1	-
LU	1	1	1	1	-
NL	0	1	2a	2b	-
AT	1	2	2	3	-
PT	1	1	1	1	-
SE	1	2	2	-	-
UK	1	2	2	3	-
NO	1	2	3a	3b	3b
CH	1	2	2	2	-

As mentioned before four countries designed only one question to collect the information. The vast majority of the countries start by asking in a separate question if the highest qualification is obtained in the host country or abroad (DE, IE, EL, FR, ES, IT, AT, SE, UK, NO, CH). If the qualification is obtained in the host country, no extra questions are asked and they are coded as 3. If not, 1 to 3 additional questions were asked to collect the necessary information about if actions were taken, what the results were and what the reasons were for not undertaken actions if relevant. The four countries that used 4 questions (IE, EL, FR and NO) had a similar set of questions in an identical order.

In the Netherlands, the level of education attained was in most cases derived from the information in the core LFS on education received after primary school. If the highest level as determined by the coding system is an education within the Dutch system, it was assumed that this was indeed the highest completed level of education including the foreign ones. This method has the serious danger that since the level of foreign education is difficult to assess in many cases the Dutch education could be considered as a higher level than the foreign diplomas. This will cause an overestimation of this group of persons.

According to the explanatory notes, the category 'no need for other reasons than code 3' should measure if a person does not need such a certificate for the work he/she does or wishes to do. This question is asked quite differently by the countries. Some countries refer in the question that it is not needed in general without referring to jobs (DE, EL, ES, FR, LV, LU, AT, PT, NL, UK and CH). Some asked if it is needed for the work they currently carry out (IT), the work they desire (IE, NO) or both current and desired work (BE, CY). This difference in data collected could influence comparability. In particular the distinction between code 4 and 5 could be different. Since all respondents not answering that it is not needed, will be coded 5, 'other reasons'.

A very normal reason not to have taken action to establish what their highest qualification equates to is that the person was not aware of such a system. In all countries this group must be of substantial size. However, only in 4 countries it was explicitly mentioned in the answering categories of the question. What happened in the other countries in these cases is not clear. In the interviewer instructions it is said how these persons should be treated: as no for other reasons. One cannot exclude that in practice it is not fully applied in the same way in all countries.

How blanks, meaning 'no answer', occur is not clear. In most cases this category is not specified in the codification scheme of the quality reports. Several countries use special complicated routings in the questionnaire for the module that are not always clear from the documentation. This could explain some of the blanks. Scheme 1 shows a theoretical codification scheme if all information necessary was collected by separate questions. It provides a possible codification of blanks.

Scheme 1. Theoretical codification scheme of ESTQUALI

Filter	Highest qualification in host country	Action taken	Results of action	Need for action	Awareness system	ESTQUALI
Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	3
	No/Unknown	Yes	Yes	-	-	1
			No/Not yet	-	-	2
			Unknown	-	-	blank?
		No	-	Yes	Yes	5
			-		No/Unknown	5
			-	No	-	4
			-	Unknown	-	blank?
		Unknown	-	-	-	blank?
No			-	-	-	9

Some additional country specific issues can be mentioned. Sweden did not collect information if no attempt was made to establish what the qualification equates to because there was no need for (cat 4) or because of other reasons (cat 5). The United Kingdom asked about recognition of the qualification. In the quality report it was acknowledged that this is not the same as officially establishing if the qualification equates to national diplomas. Furthermore, it was decided that if the respondent has answered definitively

'yes' or 'no' we should take this to mean that they have used facilities to establish what their highest qualification equates to and code them as 1 'Yes, established what qualification equates to'. It is not difficult to imagine that also some persons that never tried to establish what the qualification equates to will answer 'yes' or 'no'.
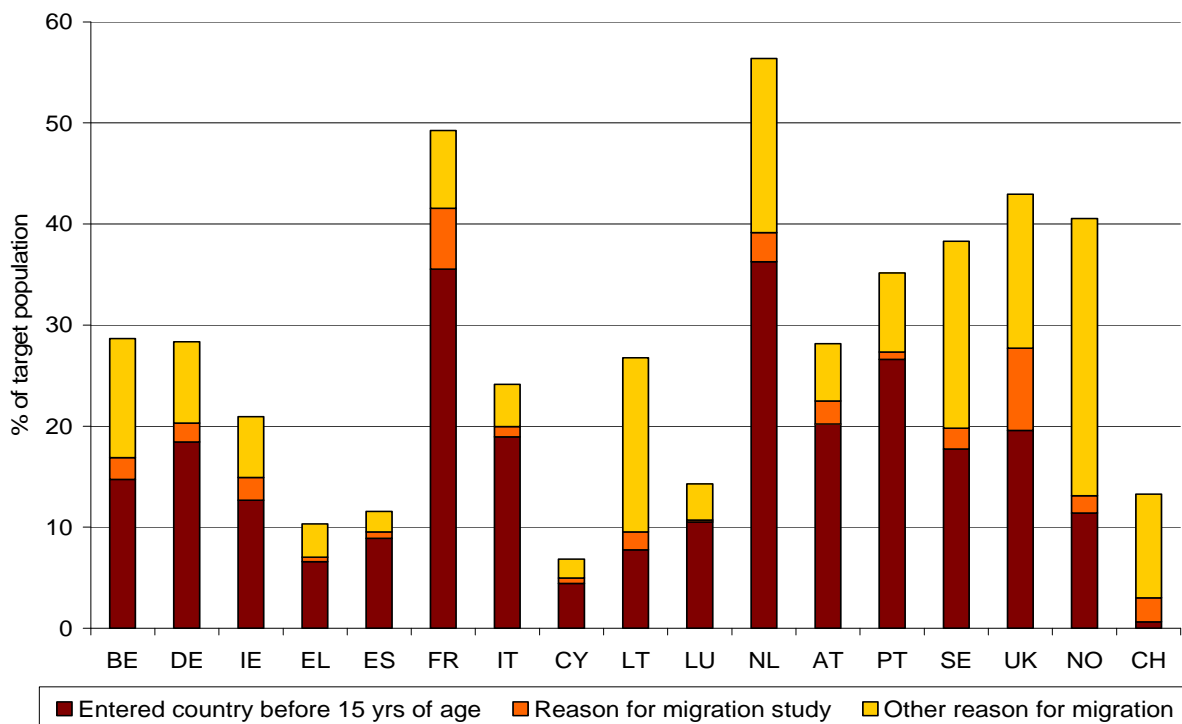
4.7.2. Analysis of results

As mentioned before, most countries start by determining if the highest qualification of the migrant was obtained in the host country. For this category the establishing what the education equates to is not relevant. In the analysis this order will be respected. This group is first analysed and excluded from the rest of the analysis.

Highest qualification obtained in host country

The share of migrants who obtained the highest qualification in the host country varies strongly between member states. It ranges from 40% or more in NL, NO, UK and FR to about 10 percent or less in EL, ES and CY. The high share in the Netherlands can be partly explained by the way the variable is measured as mentioned in the previous section. For most of the countries the largest part of the persons who obtained the highest qualification in the host country migrated before the age of 15 years. Migration because of study is also a significant group, especially in FR and UK. Low respectively high shares of persons obtained in host countries coincide with low respectively high shares of migration before 15. All in all, the results of this part of the variable seem quite plausible.

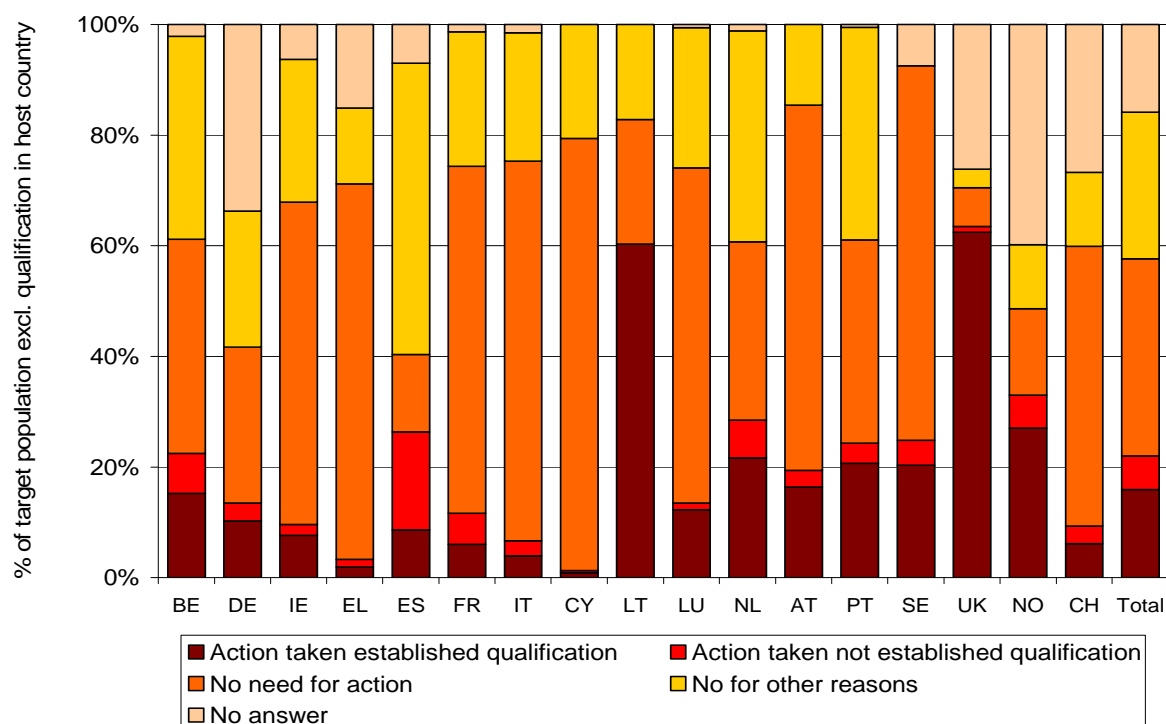Figure 12. Share of highest qualification obtained in host country

Established what qualification equates to

The results of the variable ESTQUALI in order to measure attempts to establish what a foreign qualification equates too are not satisfactory. Several issues can be mentioned. Firstly, the share of 'unknown' is high with more than 15%. This is mainly caused by DE and UK with shares of more than 30% of 'no answer'. This is too high in order to give a

reliable picture of the situation in those countries and, since these countries are large, consequently of the EU. For about half of the countries this share is very low. These opposite situations give strong doubts about the comparability between MS. Further analysis shows that three quarters of the persons in the UK for which the information is missing concern migrants with low education. This means that the item non-response is strongly selective, making the item non-response even more problematic. For Germany further analysis showed no selectiveness.

Two countries have very high shares of migrants who established what their qualification amounts to. For Latvia this could be plausible. It does not involve high numbers. Moreover it concerns migrants from Russia and other former Soviet Union states which probably had diplomas recognised by Latvia. For the UK the situation is different. As mentioned in the questionnaires section the way this is asked is not fully correct. Persons that pertinently answered 'yes' or 'no' to the question if the qualification was recognised in the UK are coded as 'established what qualification equates to'. Persons that did not even try to could also say no. They should have been coded as 'No need for action' or 'no for other reasons' (4 or 5). There is an answering category 'Recognition not attempted' but this is hardly used. That this indeed has happened is proven by the fact that categories with code 4 and 5 are very small in the UK, while they are large in all other countries.
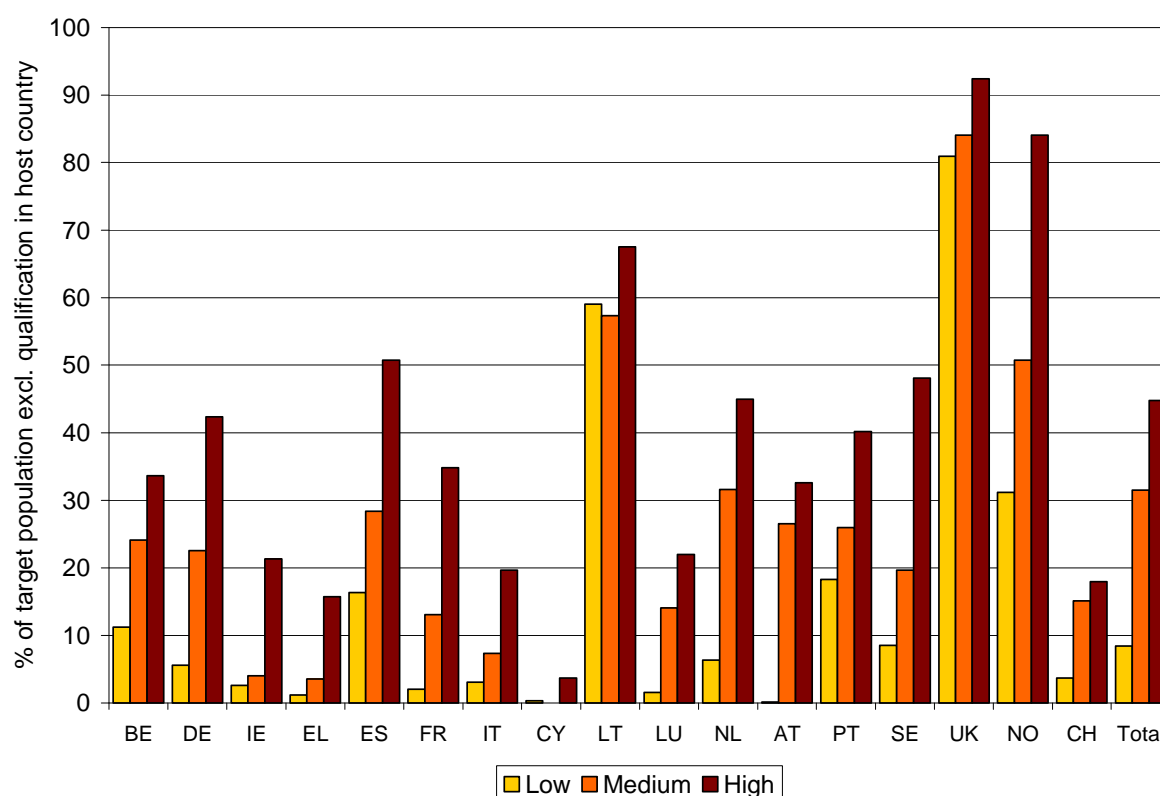
Figure 13. ESTQUALI by country

Is the measurement of the share of migrants that tried to establish what qualification equates to plausible for the countries other than LV and UK? The shares for most countries are about 20% which could be realistic. To have a correct picture the analysis should be restricted to the population without 'no answer', because of Germany. Figure 3 shows that for virtually all countries the share of migrants who tried to establish what their qualification equates to is considerably higher for migrants with higher education. This is quite plausible. So, except for UK, this part of the variable seems of acceptable quality.

In Spain the category 2 of persons 'still in the process of establishing what their qualification equates to' is very high compared to both the category 1 'already finished the procedure'. It is also much higher than the shares of category 2 in other countries. This makes the results of Spain for this specific category of doubtful quality. For this reason it is better not to use the distinction between category 1 and 2 but to combine it into one category 'tried to establish what their qualification equates to'. No essential information seems to be lost in doing so.

Figure 14. Shares of those who tried to establish what their qualification equates to by level of educational attainment and country*

* excluding 'no answer'

Reasons for not establishing what qualification equates to

As mentioned before, in Sweden information to distinguish between codes 4 and 5 is missing. They are all coded 4. In Spain the category 'no for other reasons' is very large: almost 60%. This is remarkable. Analysis of the questionnaire and the data does not shed much light on possible reasons for this.

Overall, the results of these remaining categories show that the category 'not started a procedure to establish what the qualification equates to' is by far the largest. This share is higher than 80% in all EU countries except LV and UK. Furthermore, the distinction between no, no need for and no for other reason cannot be taken very seriously. Analysis of the questionnaires shows that it is measured differently by the countries. Moreover the results show in some countries that code 5 is much more frequent than code 4 while in other countries the shares are similar. It can be doubted if this reflects reality. So this part of the variable is not very informative.

4.7.3. Conclusions and recommendations

The variable ESTQUALI is not without problems. It is measured differently by countries resulting in data that lack comparability on some parts of the variable. The data of the UK is too much deviant from that of the other MS and involves serious measurement issues. Therefore the advice is not to use the data of the UK.

The share of migrants that used facilities to establish what their foreign qualification equates to seems to be of acceptable quality. The distinction between code 1 and 2 should not be considered because of lacking value added and the deviant results of Spain. The category 'highest qualification obtained in host country', code 3, seems to be of acceptable quality. To use the other categories of the variable in more detail is not advisable since it is doubtful if these particular results reflect reality. Furthermore, the share of 'no answer' is also considerable for a number of countries, in particular Germany. This category should therefore be excluded from tables and analysis when using the data. Scheme 3 summarizes the resulting analysis variable to be used.

Scheme 2. Proposed analysis variable

Var name	Column	Code	Description	Filters
ESTQUALI	**216**		**Use of facilities for establishing what highest qualification equates to in the host country system**	Everybody aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and
		1	Yes	(C24=1,2 or C99=1,2,4
		3	No need because highest qualification obtained in the host country	or (C99=3 and C116=1))
		5	No for other reasons	
		9	Not applicable	
		Blank	No answer	

The real usefulness of this reduced variable still has to be proven. More in depth analysis is needed to shed light on this. Decisions to keep this variable in case of future repetitions depend on those analyses. At this stage no final recommendations can be made on this point. The reasons for not establishing what the qualification equates to is problematic. The results are not comparable because of the fact that it is measured differently by countries. Furthermore, it is not very informative because the share other reasons is high. Moreover it is not easy to measure these reasons. Migrants can have several reasons for not establishing what the qualification equates to. The list in the explanatory notes is not exhaustive. Also to assess the need is subjective and difficult in particular in case of proxy answering. For these reasons the recommendation on this point would be not to try to measure the reasons in future repetitions of this module.

Another idea is to combine ESTQUALI with IMPLANG, need to improve language skills. If the only aspect that is kept is to measure if someone has used facilities to establish what the qualification equates to it is a simple yes/no variable. This is the same for the need to improve language skills. One could imagine having one combined variable that measures the reasons for not having an appropriate job. One reason could be because of language problems and one other that the qualifications are not recognised. Of course one could also have both reasons and several others as well. Further reflection is needed on how this should be dealt with when defining such a new variable. Analysis of the current data set shows that only 4% of the target population reports having used

facilities to establish what the qualification equates to and is in need of improving language skills in order to find an appropriate job. So the overlap seems to be limited.

4.8. IMPLANG (column 217)

4.8.1. Analysis of the questionnaires

Measurement of the variable is not straightforward. It involves subjective aspects like 'appropriate job' and 'good' language skills. The explanatory notes try to make clearer what should be covered. One of the most difficult elements is the notion of 'appropriate job'. Appropriate means: having sufficient or the required properties for a certain purpose or task. It is the same as suitable or fit for purpose. Many countries translated it into suitable, which is in order.

Most countries used a single question to measure the variable. Only three countries used extra filter questions. In France, first is checked if there is reason to suspect that there are language problems. In Italy, first is checked if the current job is appropriate. In Austria this is checked and also the language skills. These filter questions are in line with the explanatory notes as can be seen in scheme 3.

Scheme 3. Theoretical codification scheme of IMPLANG

Filter	Appropriate job	Good language skills	Language skills good enough to have suitable job	IMPLANG
Yes	Yes	-	-	2
	No/Unknown	Yes	-	2
		No/Unknown	Yes	2
		-	No	1
		-	Unknown	blank?
No		-	-	9

Most countries used a wording like: *Is it necessary to improve the knowledge of the xxx language in order to get a suitable job?* This is in line with the concept. In case the current job is already suitable or language skills are good, they should answer no. If they think that there is no need to improve the language skills in order to get a suitable job, the skills are considered good enough to find a suitable job and they should answer no. The large majority of the countries just referred to a suitable or appropriate job in the question without explaining what its means. Three countries explicitly mentioned that appropriate means a job that is close to one's education and experience or studies and skills (IT, NL and AT).

Some countries use alternative wordings for the questions. This increases the risk of introducing bias. Three countries (EL, IE and NO) refer to the need to improve language in order to get a *better* job without checking if they consider their current job as being appropriate or not. This could result in more affirmative answers than is intended. In the explanatory notes it is stated that for persons considering their current job as appropriate, language issues are not relevant. For this reason a substantial risk of upwards bias could be suspected in the share of persons with language problems as defined by the variable IMPLANG.

France and the UK did not explicitly refer to having an appropriate job. France asked the question: *Does the French language pose you any problem to work as you would like to in France?* This has no reference to the appropriateness of the current job. It could be a job not suitable but still acceptable since the person could settle for a lower quality job. In

such a case there is the serious risk that persons will answer 'no' even though there would be the need to improve the French language skills in order to find a suitable job. The UK also used a different wording. It was asked: *Have you experienced any language difficulties that have caused problems in finding or keeping a job?* It is obvious that persons can answer 'no' to this question while they could have no appropriate job and improving English language skills would increase the chance to get a such a job. For both countries it results in a risk of downwards bias in the share of persons with language problems as defined by the variable IMPLANG.

Finally, it can be mentioned that the Netherlands used a slightly different wording as well. It is asked: *Do you master the Dutch language sufficiently in order to make it possible to work that fits your education and experience?* This wording was chosen because it was thought that this question would be easier to answer than the normal wording. The wording is in fact in line with the text in the explanatory notes, saying: *Code 2 includes (…): cases where persons' abilities in host country language(s) are not good but where it is not a problem because his/her job is appropriate, or their language skills would, in their view, not affect their ability to get an appropriate job.* For this reason one would not suspect a substantial bias in the results.

A separate issue concerns the way the questions are asked in multilingual countries. The explanatory notes state that it should be checked that all problems with all official languages are considered. This is done in BE, ES, IE and CH. In Italy the question only refers to Italian. Since the other official languages are only relevant to small parts of the country, it will not have an important effect on the results. However, in Luxemburg it was asked if there is need to improve the skills in Luxembourgish. The other official languages French and German are not taken into account. Skills in these two languages are very important to get a suitable job in Luxembourg. This will result in a severe risk of downwards bias in the share of persons with language problems as defined by the variable IMPLANG. Lithuania also only referred to the Lithuanian language and not the Russian language in the question.

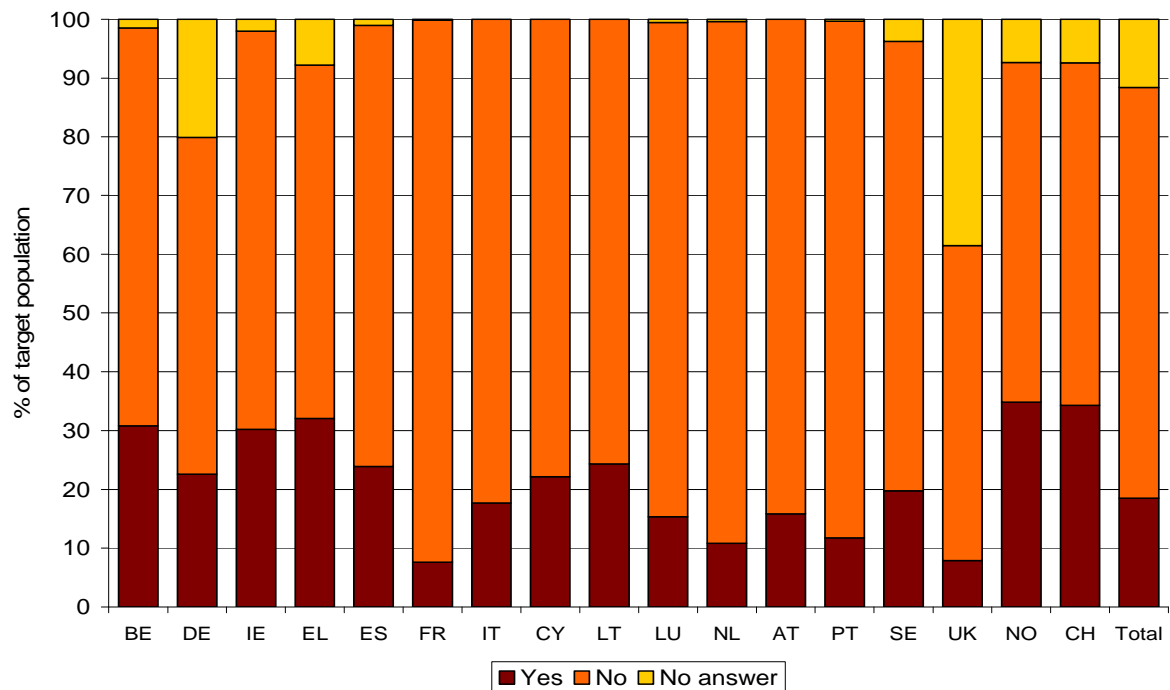### 4.8.2. Analysis of results

Share of persons in need for improving language skills

The results show that for DE and UK there is a high share of 'no answer'. For Germany the reason is that the questions in the AHM are voluntary and 'no answer' is an explicit answering category. For the UK it was caused by an error in the routing. By mistake it was routed on nationality instead of country of birth. So migrants with UK nationality did not get the question. Also for EL, NO and CH the share of non answer is considerable with about 7%. For the other countries the share is low. This seems to imply that asking such a question is feasible.

The share of persons with language problems related to getting a job ranges from less than 10 % in FR and UK to 30% or more in BE, IE, EL, NO and CH. The low shares of FR and UK are partly caused by the deviant wording of the questions. On the other end of the scale the high shares of IE, EL and NO are also probably partly caused by the slightly different wording of the questions. The relatively high shares of BE and CH could be the result of the fact that these are multilingual countries and in the question they referred to one of the languages used in the countries. This implies that need for improvement of one of the languages would involve an affirmative answer resulting in a higher share. For Ireland this could also be a partial reason for the relatively high share since the Irish

language was explicitly asked in a separate question. The same would apply to Luxembourg. However, as mentioned earlier the questionnaire was not complete on this aspect resulting in a downward bias for this country.
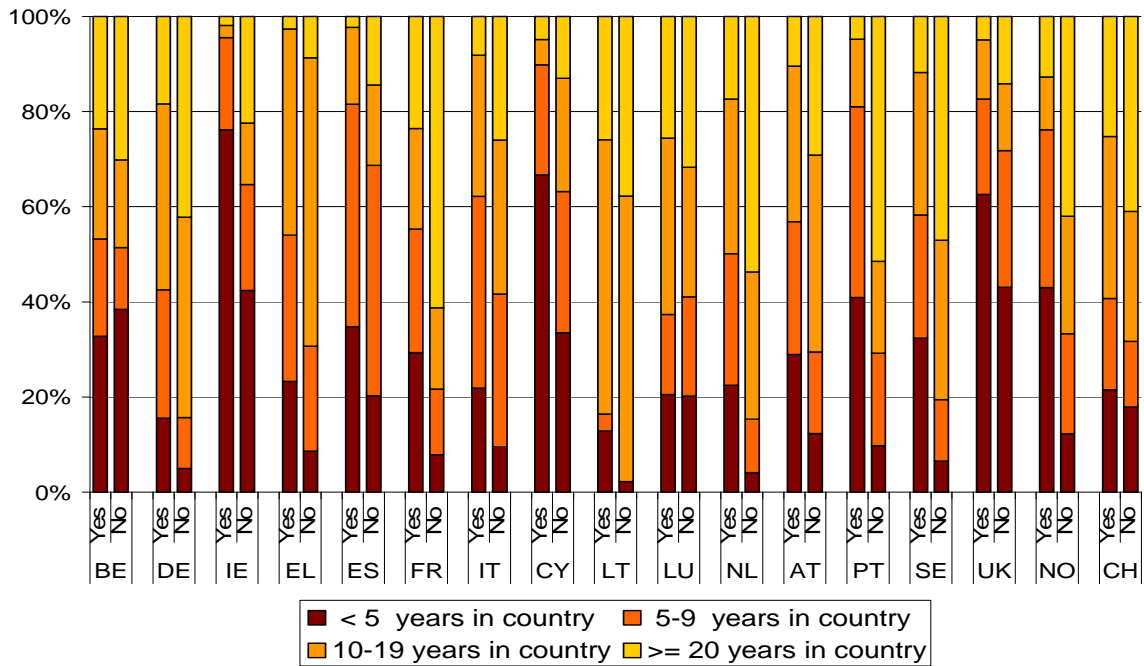
Figure 15. IMPLANG by country

Composition of group of persons in need to improve language skills
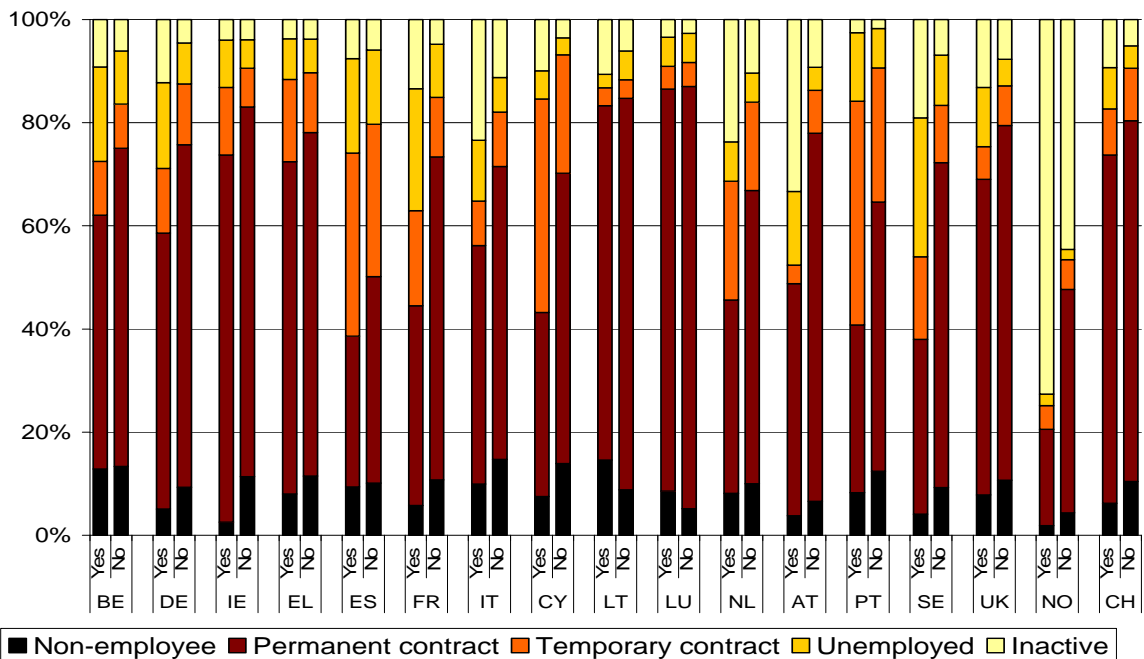
In order to analyse the quality of the data further two breakdowns are looked at: years of residence and labour market situation. The group of migrants that stated that there is a need to improve language skills are compared to the group that state that this is not necessary. This gives quite plausible results for most of the countries. The group of migrants that state that they have no need to improve language skills are longer resident in the host country. For almost all countries the percentage that is in the host country for 20 years or more is considerably higher compared to the group of migrants in need of improving their language skills. The degree of over-representation differs between countries. It is not clear if this is a result of real differences between countries or a slightly different group that is captured.

Figure 16. IMPLANG by years of residence

The results by labour market status are also quite plausible. For most countries the group of migrants in need to improve language skills has a less favourable labour market situation compared to the group that have no need to improve languages skills. The first group has lower shares of persons with a permanent contract and a higher share of persons without work. In particular the share of migrants not unemployed but would like to work is considerably higher in most cases. The degree of differences in labour status between the two groups varies between countries.

Figure 17. IMPLANG by labour situation

4.8.3. Conclusions and recommendations

Measuring the variable IMPLANG is not straightforward. Elements like 'appropriate job' and 'need to improve language skills' are not easy to transform into simple and clear questions. For this reason, some countries used different wordings resulting in either an upward or downward bias in the share of persons with language difficulties. About half of the countries showed deviating formulation with a suspect of a bias. It is impossible to assess the extent of the effect of these differences in measurement. Most probably it will be limited. However, since the variable includes rather subjective elements, it could be significant. In addition, DE and UK showed a very large share of migrants with no answer with respect to IMPLANG. For the UK this is caused by using a wrong filter in the questionnaire and for Germany it is just item non-response.

Despite the measurement issues, the variable gives valuable and sensible information about the EU. The results seem quite plausible. Breakdowns by year of residence and labour market situations show expected relationships with IMPLANG.

For future repetitions of this module, it is recommended that the questions to measure IMPLANG are better harmonised. The formulation of the questions should be more in line with the concept to be measured. Special attention should be given to reduce the share of 'no answers'.

A second recommendation is to simplify the filter to make the variable applicable to all migrants. Firstly, the current filter is quite complex. Simplifying it will make it easier to implement correctly. Secondly, lack of language skills could also be a problem for migrants to prevent them to be willing to work. It would be interesting to see how many of the migrants not willing to work have language problems.

The final recommendation is about writing language skills. This point was not mentioned in the explanatory notes. It was intended to be included in the language skills. Since it was not mentioned explicitly in any of the questions used by countries it is not clear to what respect this was captured correctly. This is an issue to reflect upon how to deal with when the module is repeated.

Summarizing, it can be said that one should be careful in comparing IMPLANG between countries. However it is possible to use the variable to analyse the issue of language skills on EU level. Care should be taken to deal with large shares of 'no answer' in UK and DE.

4.9. HELPFIND (column 218)

4.9.1. Analysis of the questionnaires

There are some differences in the way the variable HELPFIND is measured. Most countries have used a single question. Exceptions are NL, AT and FR. In the Netherlands every kind of help is checked separately. Subsequently, it was asked which of kind of help was most important in case several answers were given. In Austria it was first asked if they received help in finding the current job. If yes, from whom they received help. Only one answer was allowed. In France the variable was measured in a complex way. It was derived on the basis of questions in the core LFS. In case of migrants a multiple choice question was asked on the kind of help with three possible answers. And if more than one was mentioned the main one was determined. This information was only used in case the core LFS did not provide enough information. The questions in the core LFS that

were used involved the way the business was set-up, the way they entered the current job and which kind of contract an employee has.

In Spain the question was if they received any help in finding the current job with answering categories of the type yes, from (…) and no. Since the module was asked using telephone interviewing in practice this is probably applied as separate two questions. The original question needs only a yes/no answer. In case of yes it will most likely be asked which help.

Table 7. Differences in ways of implementing HELPFIND

	Filter question if received any help	List of kind of help received	More than 5 categories	Multiple choice list of options	Separate question what was main
BE		X	x		
DE		X			
IE		x	x		
EL		x			
ES	x	x			
FR				x	x
IT		x	x		
CY		x			
LT		x			
LU		x			
NL				x	x
AT	x	x	x		
PT		x			
SE		x			
UK		x			
NO		x			
CH		x	x		

Most of the countries that used one question, kept the wording close to the variable text asking what the main help was that a person received in finding this job. There were some exceptions of countries that have used other wordings. In Ireland was asked what of the mentioned groups were most helpful. In Italy was asked which help was received to find the current job. There was no reference to main help. In Lithuania it was asked how the job was found, with a category 'independently' added. In Greece the variable was implemented by extending the answering categories of the question used to measure WAYJFOUN, involvement of the public employment office at any moment in finding the present job. The question was 'Who helped you to find this job?'. The answering category 'no one' is lacking. Most likely a respondent that would like to give that answer will be coded under 'other'.

The above way of measuring the variable in NL and IE carries a substantial risk for an upward bias in the share of persons that received help compared to countries using the wording of the original variable asking what kind of help was received. In those cases, the respondents must be very determined not to mention any of the alternatives. On the other end of the scale there are AT, ES and LT with a severe risk of downward bias for the share of persons that received help. It is easy to say 'no' and then no further questions

are asked. In LT is also well imaginable that many respondents answered that they found the job independently while in fact they could still have received some assistance.
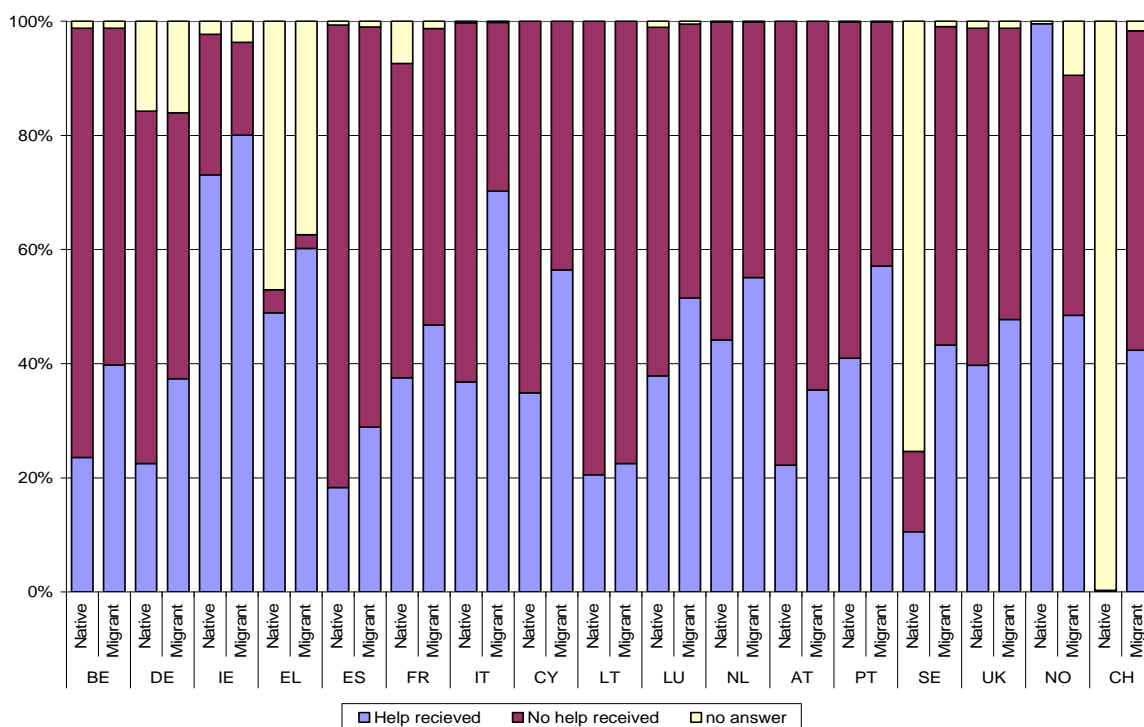
Some routing problems occurred in this module. SE applied the module only to migrants or persons with foreign background but not to natives. This variable is relevant for all employed. As a consequence, most of the natives have the code 'no answer'. A similar case is CH where no information is collected for non-migrants. In Norway all non migrants are coded as 'other'. Apparently this question was not asked to non-migrants. Also in Greece a lot of 'no answers' were found, suggesting also a routing problem. Both the documentation provided and the analysis of the data shed no light on this issue.

4.9.2. *Analysis of results*

It was clear from the analysis of the questionnaires that coverage is limited especially for the natives. Information about the main help received to find the job is missing in SE, CH and NO. Furthermore for Greece the share of 'no answer' is very large for both migrants and natives and also for Germany this share is quite high. Several MS mentioned difficulties in measuring this variable (EL, FR, AT, NL). Persons that are long in their current job will have difficulty in remembering. It is also problematic in case of proxy answering. Also that what kind of help we are talking about here, is not always obvious was mentioned in the report of NL. In FR the variable was constructed on basis of the core LFS.
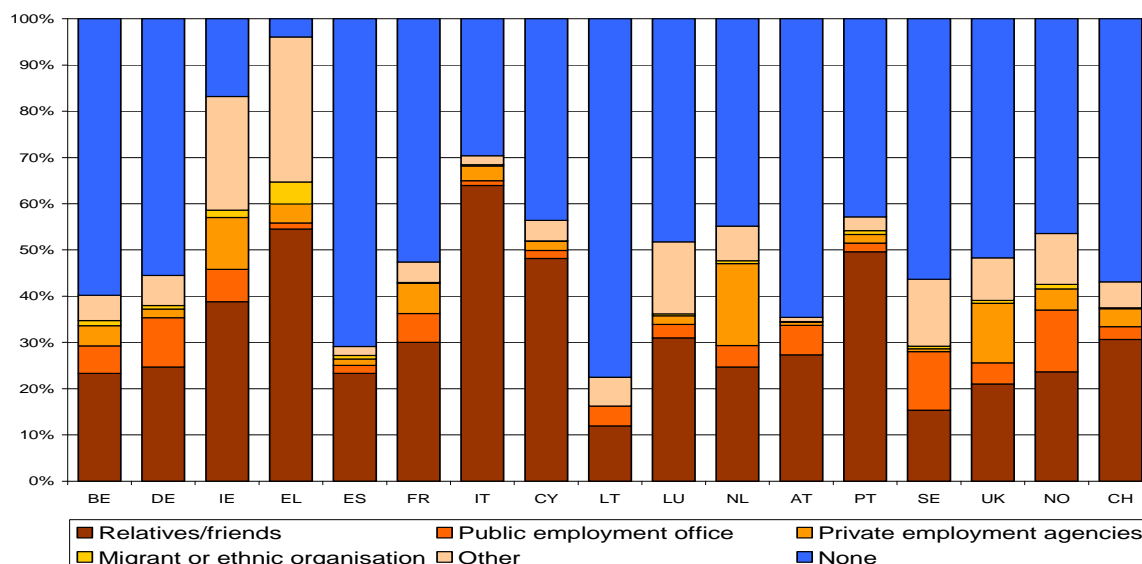
The low shares of help received are visible for ES, LT and AT. They can be explained because of the specific wording used in those countries as mention in the section on the questionnaires. On the other end of the scale there is Ireland with a very high share of help received both for migrant and natives. This can also be explained because of the wording that was used. In Italy migrants also report high shares of help received. It is unclear if this is a result of the question used, because this was not so different.

Figure 18. HELPFIND received help, % of target population

A further analysis is carried out by categories of help received. This is limited to the sub-population of migrants because of the missing information on natives in a number of countries. Also the 'no answer' category is excluded. It shows that help received by relatives and friends is by far the main kind of help that was recorded. In SE, IT, PT it is even the only category of substance. In EL and IE the category 'other' is significant. For Greece this is already mentioned in the section on the analysis of the questionnaire. This category probably includes persons that received not help at all. In Ireland it was asked what of a list was most helpful finding the job. It is not surprising that several respondents think that someone or some institution not on the list was most helpful.
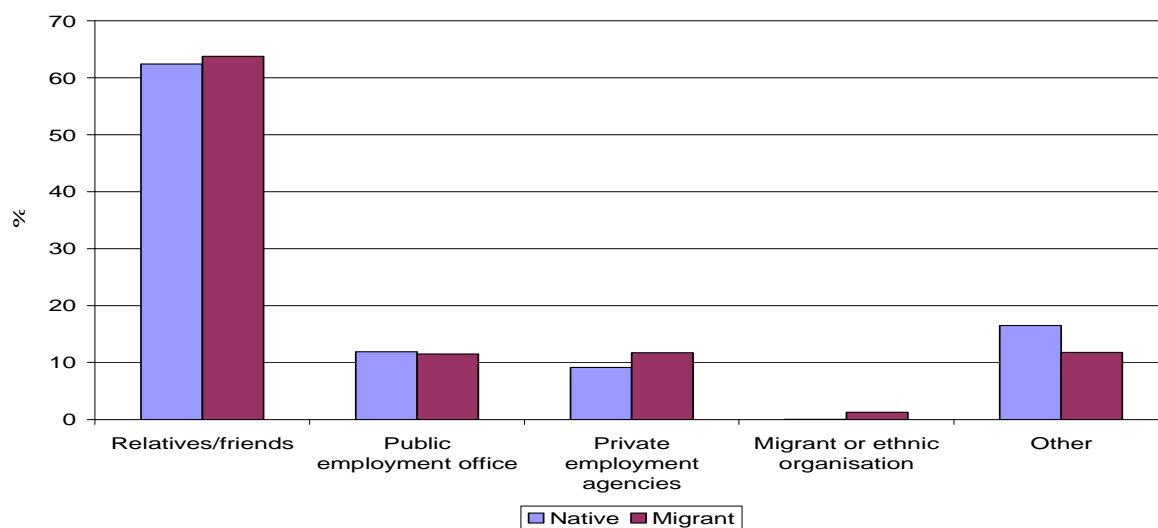
Figure 19. HELPFIND kind of help received, % of received help

The analysis shows that migrant organisations play hardly any role for migrants to find work in practically all countries. Public employment agencies seem to be relatively helpful in DE, SE and NO. Private employment agencies seem to be helpful for migrants in IE, NL and UK

To see if there were major differences in the kind of help that was received by migrants on one hand and natives on the other hand a number of countries had to be excluded from the analysis. It concerns SE, NO, CH and EL. When the remaining countries are considered, no major differences in the kind of help received is visible between migrants and natives. For both groups, relatives and friends were by far the most important category and the differences are small.

Figure 20. HELPFIND kind of help received by country of birth, % of received help

4.9.3.   Conclusions and recommendations

It can be concluded that the variable on main help received does not give fully satisfactory results on EU level. Between countries there was a high variety of the questions that were used to measure this variable leading to upward or downward bias. In addition, a number of countries did not collect this information for natives. Furthermore, the variable does not seem very informative. Help received by relatives and friends seems to be by far the most important kind of help. One can wonder what the relevance of this information is, since it is unclear what this help means and it seems obvious to receive help from relatives and friends. Moreover, no substantial differences between migrants and natives were visible. Because of the measurement issues and limited information value it is not recommended to use this variable for extensive comparative analysis.

It seems that this variable is not a good candidate to be included in case of a repetition of a module on migrants. The variety in the way it is implemented is too large. It will not be easy to limit this in the future because of the complexity of the concepts involved. Furthermore, the results of the current variable are not very informative. It seems that categories relevant for migrants are missing.

An alternative could be a variable that focuses on the methods used to find a job. However this variable must be compatible with and clearly distinct from the WAYJFOUND variable on involvement of the public employment office at any moment in finding the present job in the core LFS.

4.10. SERVINT (column 219/220)

4.10.1.   Analysis of the questionnaires

The variable SERVINT is a complex variable. It has a restricted filter, the concept of 'services for labour market integration' is not straightforward, the element of two years following last arrival and finally categories that are combinations of situations. Countries have used several ways to collect this information.

Seven countries asked a multiple choice question with the three options (BE, DE, ES, IT, AT, UK and CH). In 4 countries the question on the use of services was preceded by a filter question if they have used any services. Three countries transformed the variable directly into one question which included answering categories with labels that mentions combinations of kind of services (LT, LU and PT). In Portugal, this question was preceded by a filter question to verify if they have used services. The seven remaining countries asked three or more separate questions on the use of specific kind of services (IE, EL, FR, CY, NL, SE and NO).

The element of the two years following last arrival variable was included in the question wording in almost all countries. There were two exceptions. In Austria it was first asked if a person ever has made use of these services and, subsequently, per kind of service if they made use of it in the two years following the last arrival. In Lithuania was asked if the services were used in the period 2005-2007 which is not at all in correspondence with the original concept.

The reason why no services were used was in most cases implemented as an answering category. However, a number of countries used a separate question to measure this. In six countries respondents were not asked if they were entitled to use these services (EL, FR, LT, AT, UK and CH).

Table 8. Differences in ways of implementing SERVINT

	Filter question	Multiple choice list of options	Combination answering categories	Separate specific questions	Extra question why not	Why not in answer categories	Not asked for entitlement
BE	x	x				x	
DE	x	x				x	
IE				x		x	
EL				x			x
ES	x	x				x	
FR				x			x
IT		x			x		
CY				x	x		
LT			x				x
LU			x			x	
NL				x	x		
AT		x				x	x
PT	x		x			x	
SE				x	x		
UK		x					x
NO				x	x		
CH	x	x					x

It is not easy to assess the impact of these different ways of measuring SERVINT. Using a filter question to see if a person has used any service before going into the specific kind of service will most likely result in fewer persons stating to have used services compared to a measurement where all three kinds of services are asked separately. ES, PT and CH used such a filter question explicitly. In BE and LU it could also work like that in practice because the answering categories are nested. Interviewers will in practice use two questions to collect all information. These four countries have a risk in low shares. Since in the filter question is reference is made to 'job seeking services' or services 'to improve labour market integration' it could be understandable that a respondent is not aware that it also includes language tuition. The latter group will therefore probably be underestimated

if such a filter question is applied. On the other end of the scale there are IE, EL, FR, CY, SE and NO with separate questions having a risk of high shares of persons used any service. The remaining countries used a multiple choice list and will be somewhere in between.

The method of Austria to ask separately if they have used the services in the two years following last arrival is theoretically superior to including it in the question. Respondents will have difficulty catching this aspect when the question is put to them. This results in extending the period of two years. Since almost all countries this last variant, the shares of Austria will have risk to result in lower shares of migrants having used services.

Countries used a lot of different wordings to especially measuring categories 1 and 2. Category 1 *Yes, contact with an adviser for job guidance/counselling or job search assistance* varied from asking if someone had contacted or asked assistance or advice or even received help. The contacting institution could be a PEO, advisor, counselling service or job agency. In category 2, *Yes, participation to labour market training/programmes* varied from using the terms the labour market training/program in the answering categories or questions to professional training, job training program, vocation training program or just PEO course.

These wordings have not all the same meaning. Probably they do not exactly measure the same concepts. In Norway migrants were asked a separate question on participating in an introduction program for newly arrive immigrants. In case of an affirmative answer, they were counted as having had host country language tuition.
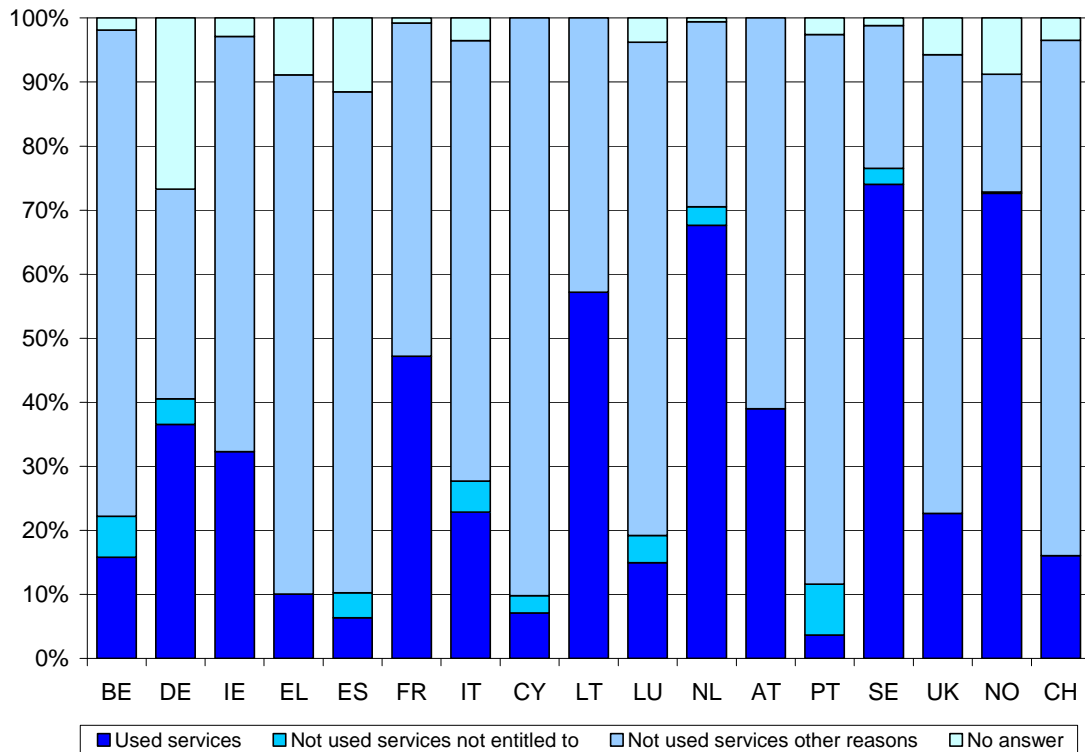
To distinguish between categories 8 (no, not entitled to) and 9 (no, for other reasons) it must be recorded if no use was made because they were not entitled to it. This is measured in two ways both by a substantial number of countries, as an answering category or via a specific question. With the first method the risk of underreporting is higher. The category could not be mentioned by the interviewer or not heard by the respondent. This method was applied by the following countries: BE, DE, IE, ES, LU, AT and PT.

4.10.2. Analysis of results

The share of migrants that made use of services during the two years following the last arrival differs strongly between countries. It ranges from more than 40% in FR, LT, NL, SE and NO to 16% or less than in BE, ES, CY, LU, PT and CH. These differences in results are highly consistent with the differences in the way it was asked. Apparently this variable is quite sensitive to questionnaire wording. Most countries that have used separate specific questions show relatively high shares and most countries that have used a filter question show relative low shares. The share of no answers is substantial in DE, EL, ES and NO: almost ten percent ore more. In DE, EL and ES the share of no answer is almost of the same magnitude as the share of migrants that have used services.

Since a number of countries have not measured if a migrant was entitled to services for labour market integration no distinction between code 8 or 9 is available. It concerns the countries EL, FR, LT, AT, UK and CH. In addition IE and NO showed hardly any migrants that were not entitled to services.
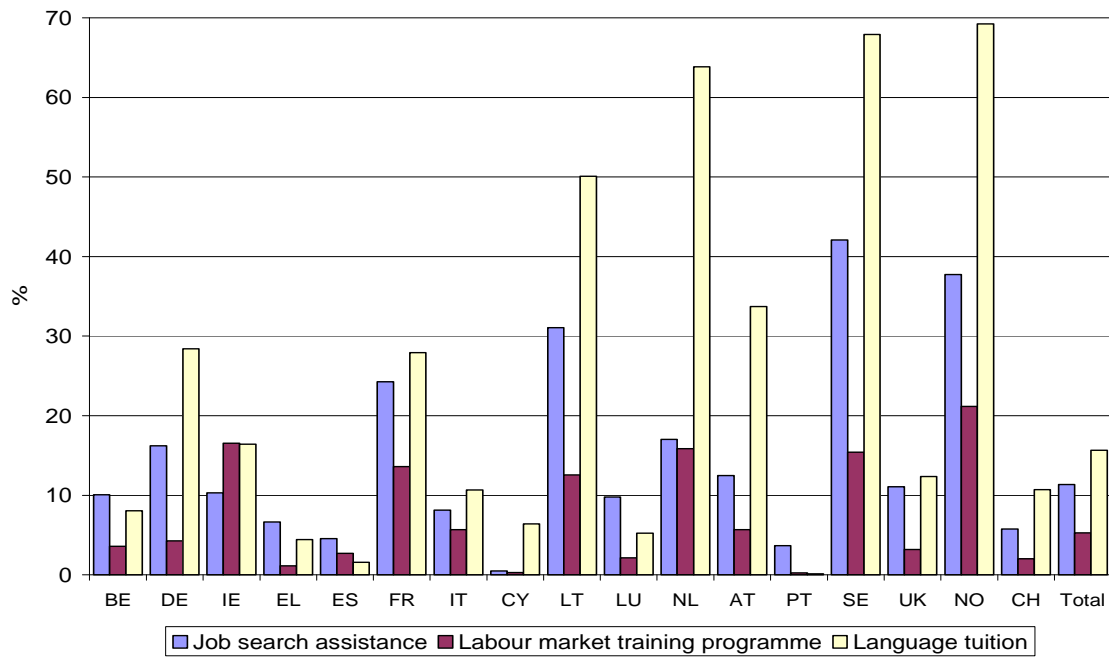
Figure 21. SERVINT used service, % of target population

Because CY and IE had separate questions one would have expected a relatively high share of migrants having used any kind of service. However for both countries the relevant question refers to contact with an advisor for job counselling etc. It is not directly clear that also contact with an agency or institution counts. This could result in underreporting. Some evidence for this in Ireland is the share of migrants that mention this kind of service compared to migrants participating in labour market programmes. In all countries except Ireland the first share is higher than the second. That it should be higher makes sense. Participation in labour market programmes is a step further than contact institutions to help in finding a job. The deviating results in Ireland suggest underreporting of this group.
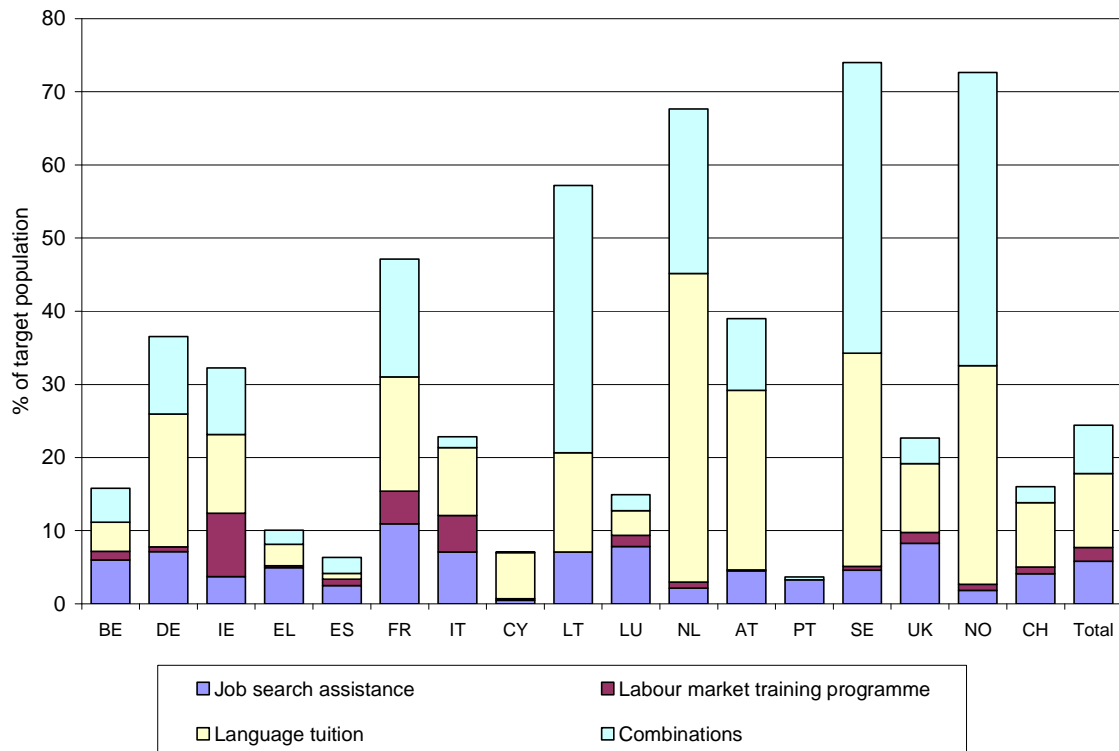
In most countries the share of migrants that were involved in language tuition was the highest compared to the other kind of services. This makes sense. Many countries have policies in this respect and it seems a basic first step in order to find work. In five countries this share is lower than the share that contact a job advisor of asked for search assistance (BE, EL, ES, LU and PT). For BE, ES, LU and PT this is explainable because of the use of a filter question on use of services. As pointed out in the analysis of the questions the risk is high that language tuition is not considered relevant thus resulting in under-reporting. For Greece the reason could be that an extra question is used to determine the language tuition. In Greece a separate question is asked where they had Greek language lessons. According to the Quality Report if respondents answer 'In school' they are not counted as having language tuition. The fact that Greece has a high share of 'no answers' could be a sign for this. Migrants that only had less at school but did not use any other service were namely coded as blank.

Figure 22. SERVINT kind of services used, % of used services

Most countries that have use separate questions show relative high incidence of the use of combination of services for labour market integration (FR, NL, SE and NO). This is normal in case that several questions are asked. Respondents tend to answer more than one question affirmative. This is less likely for multiple choice questions.

Figure 23. SERVINT combinations of services used, % of used services

4.10.3. Conclusions and recommendations

The results of SERVINT differ strongly between countries. To a high extent this is due to the way it is implemented. This varies considerably. Countries have used different wording, different number and kinds of questions. For this reason differences in the share of migrants that used labour market services will probably not reflect the actual differences between countries. Furthermore, a number of countries did not measure the category 'did not use labour market services because he/she was not entitled to'. This makes this category less informative on EU level. Finally, because of the differences in the number of migrants that claimed to have used labour market services also the kind of services used is not measured comparatively. In particular having had language tuition is suspected to be subject to underreporting in a number of countries. These severe measurement issues limit the use for publication and analysis to a large extent.

It recommended that this variable is revised before it can be used in a repetition of the AHM. To have categories with combination should be avoided. They are complex to ask and therefore give generally less satisfactory results. There are too many options to measure this: single question, multiple-choice question or separate questions. Countries will use all alternatives with different results reducing comparability.

The element of 'two years following the last arrival' makes the variable complex. Questions with these wording included will be too long with a risk that not all information is absorbed correctly. As a consequence the answers will be less adequate. One should reconsider if this element is essential.

The experiences of the AHM 2008 show that the first two categories of this variable were quite complex. They were not easy to be measured via a simple answering category or even a set of simple questions. As a result countries have implemented it differently, making choices in wording and concepts to measure. The categories should be simplified. The experiences of the AHM 2008 could be used to find the most appropriate approach.

Participation in host language course was underreported in several countries. It was not evident for all respondents that this is a service for labour market integration. If this is important to measure it probably deserves a separate variable. One can also think that for such a variable the two year period is not essential.

A final issue is that the target group of this variable is quite small as a result of a complex filter. It is recommended to simplify the filter. Furthermore, it should be reflected upon the possibility to define a variable that would be relevant to a large population.

ANNEX 1: List of variables - Module 2008

Specification of the 2008 ad hoc module on "The labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants"

1:      All Member States and regions are concerned.

2.   The variables will be coded as follows:

The numbering of the variables of the labour force survey in the column 'Filter' (C11/14, C17/18, C19/20, C24, C99, C116, C162/165 and C170/171) refers to Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005. The coding to be used for columns 207/208 and 209/210 shall be the same as for columns 17/18, 21/22, 39/40 and 150/151 of Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005.

Var.name	Column	Code	Description	Filters
YEARCITI	203/206		**Year of acquisition of citizenship** **4 digits**	Everybody aged 15-74 and C17/18=C170/171
		9996	Year unknown but national by acquisition	
		9997	National at birth	
		9998	National since the creation of the country/redefinition of borders	
		9999	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C17/18≠C170/171))	
		Blank	No answer	
COBFATH	207/208		**Country of birth of father** *(For Germany: nationality/former nationality of father when he has in the reference week the German nationality)* For coding, see ISO country classification	Everybody aged 15-74
		98	Country unknown but father born abroad	
		99	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74)	
		Blank	No answer	
COBMOTH	209/210		**Country of birth of mother** *(For Germany: nationality/former nationality of mother when she has in the reference week the German nationality)* For coding, see ISO country classification	Everybody aged 15-74
		98	Country unknown but mother born abroad	
		99	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74)	
		Blank	No answer	
TOTRESID	211/212		**Total number of years of residence in the host country**	Everybody aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00
		01-98	2 digits	
		99	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20=00))	
		Blank	No answer	
MIGREAS	213		**Main reason the person had for migrating (last migration)**	Everybody aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and (C162/165 – C11/14 – C19/20)>=15
		1	Employment, intra corporate transfer	
		2	Employment, job found before migrating other than code 1	
		3	Employment, no job found before migrating	
		4	Study	
		5	International protection	
		6	Accompanying family/family reunification	
		7	Family formation	
		8	Other	
		9	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20=00) or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and (C162/165 – C11/14 – C19/20)<15))	
		Blank	No answer	

DURLIM	**214**		**Whether the duration of the current residence permit/visa/certificate is limited (optional for France)**		Everybody aged 15-74 and C17/18≠C170/171
		0	Yes, less than 1 year		
		1-5	Yes, number of years		
		6	Yes, limited duration of more than 5 years		
		7	Yes, but do not know the duration		
		8	No		
		9	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C17/18=C170/171))		
		Blank	No answer		
RESTRACC	**215**		**Whether current legal access to the labour market is restricted**		Everybody aged 15-74 and C17/18≠C170/171 and (C24=1,2 or C99=1,2,4 or (C99=3 and C116=1))
		1	Yes, access restricted to employment for specific employers/sectors/occupations		
		2	Yes, access restricted to self-employment		
		3	Yes, access not allowing self-employment		
		4	Yes, combination of 1 and 2		
		5	Yes, combination of 1 and 3		
		6	Yes, other legal access restrictions		
		7	No		
		8	Does not know		
		9	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C17/18=C170/171) or (person aged 15-74 and C17/18≠C170/171 and C116=2, blank))		
		Blank	No answer		
ESTQUALI	**216**		**Use of facilities for establishing what highest qualification equates to in the host country system**		Everybody aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and (C24=1,2 or C99=1,2,4 or (C99=3 and C116=1))
		1	Yes, established what qualification equates to		
		2	Yes, but not established what qualification equates to or procedure not yet completed		
		3	No, no need because highest qualification obtained in the host country		
		4	No, no need for other reason than code 3		
		5	No for other reason		
		9	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20=00) or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and C116=2, blank))		
		Blank	No answer		
IMPLANG	**217**		**Need to improve host country language skills to get an appropriate job**		Everybody aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and (C24=1,2 or C99=1,2,4 or (C99=3 and C116=1))
		1	Yes		
		2	No		
		9	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20=00) or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and C116=2, blank))		
		Blank	No answer		

HELPFIND	**218**		**Main help received in the host country in finding the current job or setting up own business**	Everybody aged 15-74 and C24=1, 2
		1	Relatives/friends	
		2	Public employment office	
		3	Private employment agencies	
		4	Migrant or ethnic organisation	
		5	Other	
		6	None	
		9	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C24=3, 4, 5))	
		Blank	No answer	
SERVINT	**219-220**		**Use of services for labour market integration in the two years following the last arrival**	Everybody aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and C19/20<=10 and (C162/165 – C11/14 – C19/20)>=15
		01	Yes, contact with an adviser for job guidance/counselling or job search assistance	
		02	Yes, participation to labour market training/programmes	
		03	Yes, participation to host country language tuition	
		04	Yes, combination of 1 and 2	
		05	Yes, combination of 1 and 3	
		06	Yes, combination of 2 and 3	
		07	Yes, combination of 1, 2 and 3	
		08	No, not entitled to	
		09	No, for reason other than code 08	
		99	Not applicable (person aged under 15 or over 74 or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20=00) or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and C19/20>10) or (person aged 15-74 and C19/20≠00 and C19/20<=10 (C162/165 – C11/14 – C19/20)<15))	
		Blank	No answer	
	221/226		**Weighting factor for the LFS module 2008 (optional)**	Everybody aged 15-74
		0000-9999	Columns 221-224 contain whole numbers	
		00-99	Columns 225-226 contain decimal places	