POLITICISATION OF MIGRATION IN EUROPE

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Plan

– Key Messages
– What is SOM?
– Results
– Discussion
Key Message

- In all countries politicisation is a mixture of political leadership or initiative, and circumstances that provide opportunities to influence politics.
- In most countries politicisation is top-down driven by political parties, but in Ireland, the UK and Switzerland to a lesser extent, the process tends to be more initiated bottom-up, with more room for civil society actors and journalists.
- Salience and polarisation of immigration and integration are not clearly related to the influx of immigrants, to the share of foreign born residents, the policy responses or the state of the economy.
Claimsmaking in European Newspapers

- Four types of actors
  - State
  - Political parties
  - Movements
  - Media
- Politicization of immigration in several receiving countries
- Research modules on
  - Demographics of migration
  - Political opportunity structure
  - Media study
Migration as Volatile Issue

Salience of migration in all countries studied, moving average of number of claims per day and long term trendline.
National Level Stays Important

Salience of immigration, 30 day moving average of the number of claims per day per country
Integration Replaces Immigration

![Graph showing the percentage of population that supports integration and immigration over the years from 1995 to 2009.

- Immigration
- Civic integration

The graph indicates a trend where the support for integration increases while the support for immigration decreases over the years.]
Policy Makers and Gov’ts are decisive

Foreign-Born Population

Notes: Number of foreign-born residents (in millions), in Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Ireland (IE), the Netherlands (NL), Spain (ES), Switzerland (CH), and the United Kingdom (UK). Source: SOM, based on official statistics.