

Analytical Challenges in the study of South-North intra-EU Mobility

by Jean-Michel Lafleur and Mikolaj Stanek



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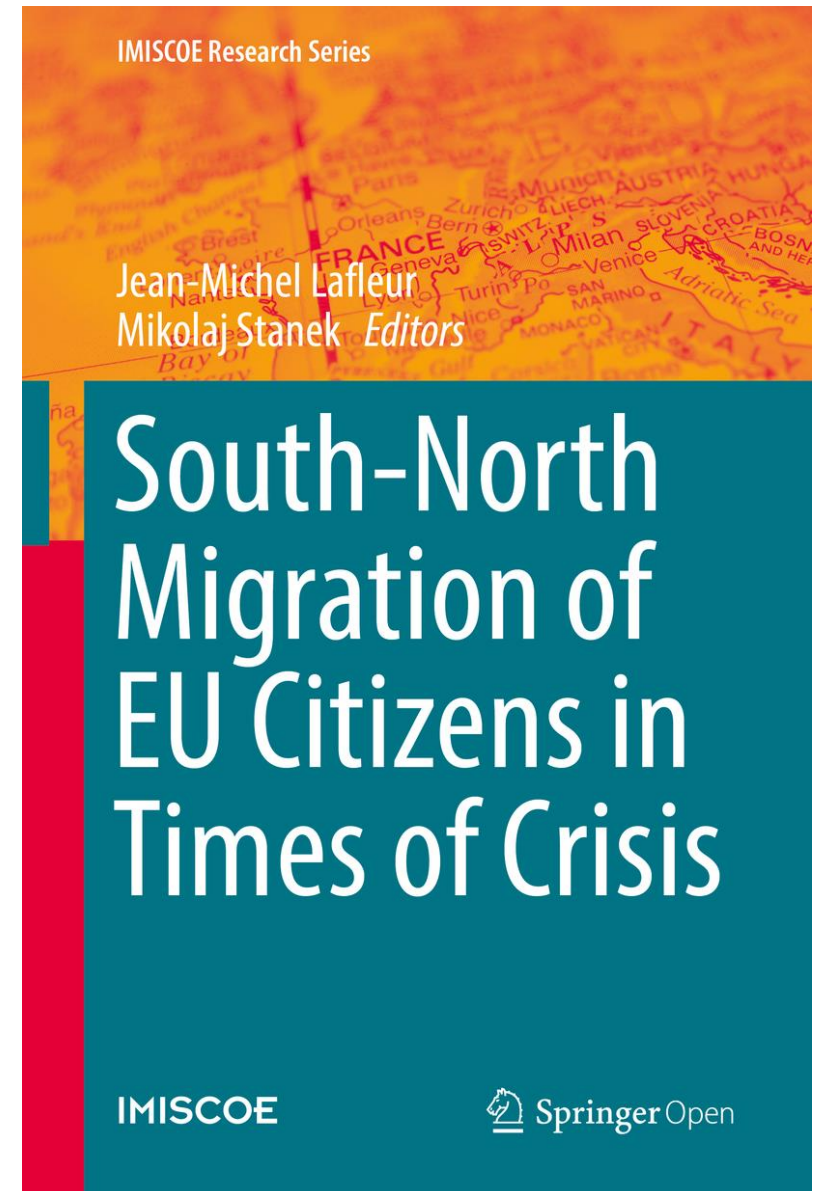
Contextualization and Goals of the Book

1. Document changes in flows with the crisis
2. Analyse policy responses by Member States

- Springer Publishers (Imiscoe Series)
- Open access book can be downloaded at:

<http://bit.do/EUmigration>

Available on 30/11/16



Some Results: Flows

- Remarkable increase in South-North mobility
- Main destination countries: UK & Germany
- **BUT** lower than expected
- Underestimation of flows by official statistics?

Some Results: Socio-economic Profile

- Different type of new mobile EU citizens: circular migrants, long-term migrants, posted-workers
- Young age
- Strong participation of highly-skilled in new flows
- One exception: Portugal
- Brain drain?

Challenges with the data

Data used in the book:

1. EU LFS
2. National LFS
3. Alternative sources: Censuses, social security databases, registers
4. Sources for specific phenomena: posted workers and expelled EU migrants

Sources used per case study (+ EU-LFS)

	BE	FR	DE	EL	IT	PT	ES	UK
Census	X	X						X
LFS			X					X
Social Security / National Insurance	X							X
Administrative records & municipal registers			X		X		X	
Consular registers					X		X	
Other	X	X		X		X		

1. EU-LFS microdata: opportunities and restrictions

- Main data source for EU-wide studies
- Strengths
 - Comparable methodology
 - Regular update
 - The 2008 and 2014 *ad hoc* modules

1. EU-LFS microdata: opportunities and restrictions

- Weaknesses
 - Some categories of migrants not covered
 - High level of aggregation of basic indicators

15 groups provided for variables “Nationality” & “Country of birth”

000 –	National / Native of own Country
001 –	EU15
002 –	NMS10 (10 new Member States of 2004)
003 –	NMS3 (3 new Member States of 2007 and 2013)
006 –	EFTA
007 –	Other Europe
009 –	North Africa
010 –	Other Africa
011 –	Near and Middle East
012 –	East Asia
013 –	South and South East Asia
016 –	North America
017 –	Central America (and Caribbean)
018 –	South America
019 –	Australia and Oceania

2. National LFS

- Examples: Micro-census in Germany & UK LFS
- Provides **disaggregated data** on:
 - Country of origin & Nationality
 - Socio-demographic characteristics
- **BUT** issues with:
 - Subsample too small for specific categories
 - Specific types of migrants not covered by sampling frame

3. Alternative Data Sources (1/2)

- BE & FR: LFS subsample size is too small
- Use of **population censuses** as alternative
- Limitations are well-known
 - Limited number of variables
 - Temporal gaps
 - Some migrant categories are left out
- **Social security database** used for BE case:
 - Rich data on socio-demographic profile and labour market participation
 - Unregistered migrants invisible

3. Alternative Data Sources (2/2)

- **Consular registers** of sending countries
 - Italian *AIRE*
 - Spanish *PERE*
- Spanish **Municipal register**
- Severe limitations:
 - Uncertainty of citizens about duration of stay abroad
 - Negative consequence of change in residence on welfare entitlement

4. Sources on Specific Mobility-related Phenomena

- **Posted workers:** limits of the analysis of portable social security documents PD A1
- **Expelled EU migrants:** limited data on politically-sensitive issue

Conclusion: Lessons from users' experience

- (1) Put more effort on **lower level of aggregation** for some variables of EU LFS
- (2) Address **fragmentation** of national registers and population surveys that hurts comparability
- (3) Improve **accessibility** of publicly-funded research
- (4) Increase attention towards **new mobility-related phenomena** (posting, expulsions, mobility of naturalised EU citizens born outside the EU...)

Thank you for your attention!

- Springer Publishers (Imiscoe Series), 2017
- Open-access book: <http://bit.do/EUmigration>

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