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**—  
Inventory of Individual Statistical Data on  
Migration to, from and within Switzerland  
in a Post-Census World**

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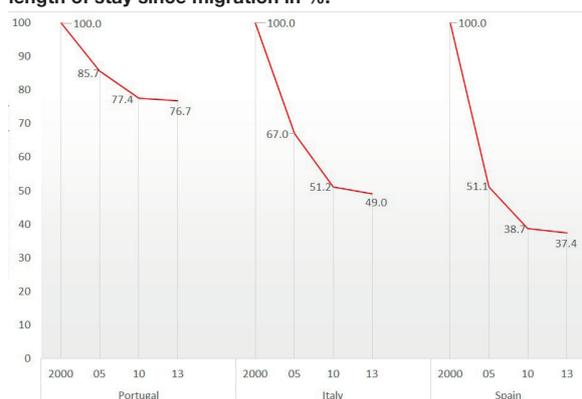
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**In order to precisely document the complexity of the phenomenon of migration, accurate statistical information is required for both researchers and politicians, as well as for the public. Relying on administrative data and surveys, this project aims to describe today's international migration, and to measure the processes leading to the integration of migrant populations in Switzerland. For this purpose, longitudinal approaches will be used, aimed at describing the life course of migrants in Switzerland.**

**Creation and Analysis of a Longitudinal Database on  
Foreigners Living in Switzerland**

Statistical data on international migration and more particularly on structural integration of migrants have traditionally been collected on the basis of decennial censuses or specific surveys. This has reduced the analysis of a dynamic phenomenon to a statistical measure of immigrants stocks at a specific point in time. As such, comparison from one year to the next is difficult due to the changing composition of the population. With a longitudinal database, the perspective is not to compare populations at every point in time, but to follow individuals from one point in time to another in order to measure the integration process of those individuals (see for instance Herzog et al., 2007, Wanner et al., 2012, in the case of Switzerland). This sub-project is based on the development of a longitudinal database in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. This database links the information from different administrative registers in order to reconstitute individual life trajectories. It forms the basis for analyses on the duration of residence in Switzerland (see graph), on the integration processes in professional life or on mobility.

**Proportion of immigrants still living in Switzerland, according to the length of stay since migration in %.**



The rate at which migrants from Southern Europe, who had arrived under a B or C permit during 2000 (and still were in Switzerland on 31.12.2000), re-emigrate varies according to their nationality. While two thirds of Italians and Spaniards have left Switzerland after 13 years, only one third of Portuguese have done so.

Source: Own calculations based on the Foreign Population Register and the Population Register.

**Methods and Data**

This longitudinal database covers the period 1998-2013 and will be updated every year. Up to now, and on the basis of administrative registers, information has been collected

on every individual living in Switzerland, on his or her status at the end of each year (from 1998 to 2013 for foreigners, from 2010 to 2013 for Swiss citizens) and on demographic movements (change in the commune of residence, in matrimonial status, permit, etc.). This information was collated from the Population Registers (including Foreign Population Registers). Structural surveys from 2010 to 2013 were also added. Other registers have been or will be linked to this database, according to NCCR researchers' specific needs (including surveys on students, the Unemployment Register, Social Assistance Registers and the Income Survey, as well as the Social Security Registers).

### Integration Processes of Migrants

The second part of the project aims to describe and analyze the integration processes of migrants to Switzerland in a longitudinal perspective. There is currently no consensus on what can be considered a good definition, and by extension, a good measure of structural integration (defined by the criteria of convergence with the natives regarding different indicators such as wages, unemployment rate, etc.). The first objective will therefore be the identification of theoretical definitions and operational indicators of integration for the Swiss context (and beyond). Through a comparison of cross-sectional and longitudinal measures of integration, we attempt to highlight how methodological variations in the measure of integration — including the recent shift in collected data — affect the outcomes.

### Methods and Data

Using the aforementioned database, the integration processes will be described, using multidimensional indicators and multivariate analysis, including duration models that are convenient with longitudinal data. The aim is to measure the integration processes according to the date of arrival, but also with regards to the regions of origin, socioeconomic characteristics, and purpose of migration. Using the descriptive results, a typology of integration processes will be proposed. This typology is based on the assumption that the starting point where migrants begin to converge to the normative standard of the natives is different for each individual and depends on individual and group characteristics. While some migrants can be seen as integrated from the beginning — due to cultural proximity and a higher level of professional qualifications, for example — others need to catch up on different dimensions to be considered similar to natives. Thus, the rate at which new migrants converge to the natives' average level, according to different parameters measured at different points in time, will be used to outline this typology.

### Publications

- Steiner, Ilka, and Philippe Wanner. *Towards a New Data Set for The Analysis of Migration and Integration in Switzerland*. Working Paper. Neuchatel: nccr – on the move, 2015.
- Wanner, Philippe. *Describing Migration on Integration Process using Statistical Registers. The Swiss Experience*. ECE Conference of European Statisticians, Geneva 30 September to 2 October 2015, [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.41/2015/mtg1/CES\\_GE.41\\_2015\\_6-Switzerland\\_rev.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.41/2015/mtg1/CES_GE.41_2015_6-Switzerland_rev.pdf)

### References

- Wanner, Philippe, Ilka Steiner, Marco Pecoraro, Mathias Lerch, and Ceren Topgul. *La démographie des étrangers en Suisse, Collection «Cohésion Sociale et Pluralisme Culturel»*. Zurich: Seismo, 2012.
- Herzog, Thomas N., Fritz J. Scheuren, and William E. Winkler. "Record Linkage." In *Data Quality and Record Linkage Techniques* edited by Thomas N. Herzog, Fritz J. Scheuren and William E. Winkler. New York: Springer Science & Business Media, 2007.