

**Philippe Wanner and  
Rosita Fibbi (Project Leaders),  
Julie Lacroix, Aljoscha Landoes,  
Ilka Steiner**

—

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

University of Geneva  
Institute of Demography and Socioeconomics, Geneva School of Social Sciences  
40, bd Pont d'Arve, 1211 Genève 4, Switzerland

Contact: Philippe Wanner, philippe.wanner@unige.ch, T +41 22 379 89 30

**Migration flows and their consequences for immigration societies need statistical data to be adequately managed. In this context, researchers and policy makers regularly delve into original information to monitor issues, such as social cohesion, structural integration and migrants' living conditions. The aim of this project is threefold: first, it valorizes already existing information and links datasets; second, it gathers new data through the Migration-Mobility Survey; and, third, it analyzes and diffuses those data.**

---

### **Messages for Decision-Makers**

- **The development of a longitudinal statistical database allows for a new picture of the migratory phenomenon to emerge, where migrants' trajectories are analyzed in their complexity and diversity, from their arrival in the country to their possible departure.**
  - **The Migration-Mobility Survey carried out in 2016 with almost 6'000 migrants sheds lights on their trajectories, living conditions and future projects. A new round is planned in Fall 2018.**
- 

### **Creating a Longitudinal Database to Study Migrants from a Long-Term Perspective**

Migration generally impacts the life-course in the long run. Therefore, apprehending challenges related to migration requires longitudinal data, i.e. data that is not limited to one point in time, but that covers the migrants' biography. In this context, we have developed a longitudinal statistical database based on administrative registers, i.e. population registers, first pillar registers, unemployment registers, and on the yearly Structural Survey that allows us to follow the

migrant population during their stay in Switzerland and to measure their living conditions as well as the level of their integration on the labor market. This original database was developed with the support of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and represents one of the most extensive projects of data linkage currently existing in our country. One of its aims is to feed researchers with longitudinal data and to lay the ground for original axes of research.

### **From Refugees' Labor Market Participation to Naturalization Behaviors: A Variety of Analyses Made Possible**

Among the dimensions already investigated through this statistical database one can mention refugees' and asylum seekers' level of labor market participation. The analyses reveal how difficult it is for this particular group of migrants not only to integrate into the labor market, but also to access jobs matching their skills. Factors explaining naturalization behaviors were identified: our data confirmed in particular the impact of migrants' socioeconomic characteristics on the probability of being granted Swiss citizenship.

The statistical database is also the basis for the computation of some of the Migration-Mobility Indicators ([indicators.nccr-onthemove.ch](http://indicators.nccr-onthemove.ch)). Longitudinal analyses of migrants' cohorts demonstrate that the majority of

foreigners arriving in Switzerland will only stay for a limited number of years; however, for those who decide to stay in the country, naturalization is common. Such analyses also shed light on the profound transformation of migration flows with both a noticeable increase of highly qualified migration and a continuous diversification in terms of both countries of origin and reasons to migrate.

### Migrants' Mobility and Family Changes

Administrative registers are particularly well suited to analyze interrelated demographic behaviors. They allow for instance to identify whether – and to what extent – migrants and non-migrants adjust their housing situation and location to a change in the composition of their family. Results show that migrants from non-EU countries are more mobile when they get married, mostly because cohabitation before marriage is less common among this group. On the contrary, residential adjustment proves to be less likely for immigrants when they have their first child: EU/EFTA and non-EU migrants are more often stuck in place, in particular when they dispose of a lower income and when they live in crowded dwellings. In contrast, Swiss people tend to move when their first child is born, whatever their level of income. These results suggest a differential access to the housing market for the most precarious immigrant groups.

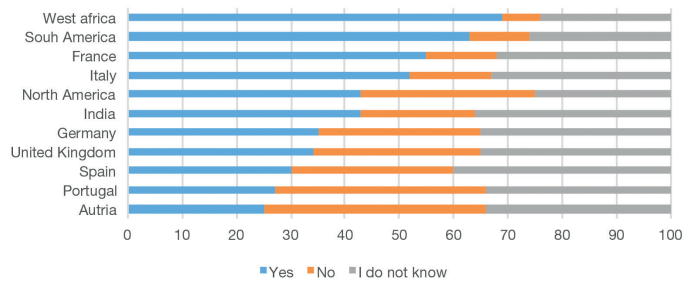
### The Migration-Mobility Survey: Nearly 6'000 Migrants Asked about Their Living Conditions

Another outcome on this project is the Migration-Mobility Survey, focusing on migrants' living conditions and social participation in Switzerland, as well as their migration trajectories and future plans. The first round of the Survey was conducted in Fall 2016 and included 5'973 respondents that were between 24 and 64 years of age at the time of the survey. A second round of the survey will be conducted in Fall 2018 in order to document the changes observed among the sample. This survey, which is one of the largest European surveys specifically conducted among the migrant population, provides original data that has also been published as part of the Migration-Mobility Indicators. Currently, approximately 30 researchers are working on different topics using the data from the Survey.

Preliminary results show in particular that respondents' intentions regarding naturalization and remigration (i.e. departure from Switzerland) differ from one origin to another: Non-European migrants are more interested in naturalization than European migrants and they intend to stay longer, if not forever, in Switzerland. Moreover, the Survey results demonstrate a high level of satisfaction regarding the professional status in Switzerland, but also highlight the difficulties that family migrants as well as West-African migrants – who often face discrimination – encounter on the labor market.

**Figure: Respondents' intentions to apply for Swiss citizenship by country / region of origin**

Do you intend to apply for the Swiss nationality?



Source: Migration-Mobility Survey 2016

### Key Publications

- Loretan, Alicia, and Philippe Wanner. "The Determinants of Naturalization in Switzerland between 2010 and 2012." *nccr – on the move Working Paper Series*, no. 13 (2017).
- Wanner, Philippe. "How Well Are Asylum Seekers and Refugees Integrating into the Swiss Labor Market." *Highlights*, no. 2. Neuchâtel, Switzerland: nccr – on the move, October 2017.
- Wanner, Philippe. "Quitter son lieu de vie pour des raisons économiques? Une analyse de la mobilité résidentielle au sein de six agglomérations." Granges, Switzerland: Office fédéral du Logement, 2017.