

From Crisis to Change

Migration Laws, Labor Precarity, and Worker Adaptation in Europe

No one-size-fits-all:

Each country's history and policies shape how it handles crises for migrant workers.

Old habits get stronger:

Crisis often make countries reinforce patterns of inclusion (for instance of skilled migrants) and exclusion (for instance of refugees).

Changes keep coming:

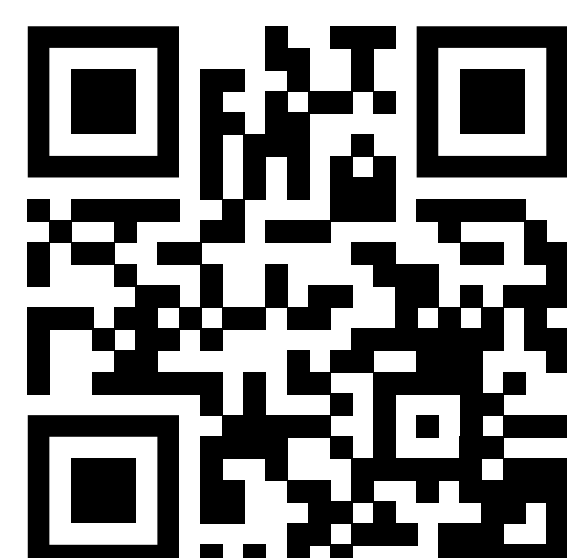
Crisis responses don't happen just once - they keep evolving, often making life harder for migrants over time.

Everyone plays a part:

Migrants, employers, and governments all influence what happens, through their actions and attitudes

What This Research Adds:

- Shows how crises induce changes and amplify existing "rankings" among migrants.
- Studies how people coped with precarious conditions in times of crisis



How Crises Change Migration Rules:

- Crises are windows of opportunity: they may prompt **both restrictions and relaxations** of the rules applicable to migrants.
- Outcomes depend mainly on the **kind of crisis**, **international rules**, and **pre-existing national policies** towards affected groups.
- **Crisis responses evolve over time**: initially generous responses may be replaced by increasingly restrictive legal solutions.

How Crises Affect Migrant Workers' Jobs:

Between 2009 – 2019 (based on the LFS data), precarious work among migrant workers was **stable** in most EU countries. However, it

- **Decreased** in Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Hungary (for EU migrants), and in Cyprus and Austria (for non-EU migrants).
- **Increased** in Switzerland and Estonia (for EU migrants) and in Switzerland (for non-EU migrants).



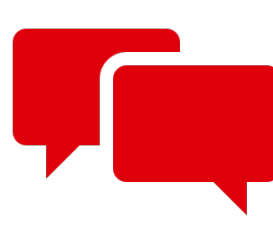
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How Migrant Workers in Restaurants and Hotels Coped During COVID-19:

- In general, they relied on adaptability to navigate a highly flexibilized global labor market.
- Changing jobs - generally a common strategy - became much harder during the pandemic.
- Switzerland was often seen as having better working conditions and COVID-19 measures than other countries.

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