

# ICMPD

International Centre for  
Migration Policy Development

## **New Forms and Patterns of Migration and its impacts on Society**

Presentation at the Statistics Day 2017, "Social Statistics in the European Statistical System in the context of rapidly changing societies", Statistics Austria, 2 October, 2017

# Agenda

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Introduction – recent migration dynamics

How to assess impacts?

The changing scope of integration policy

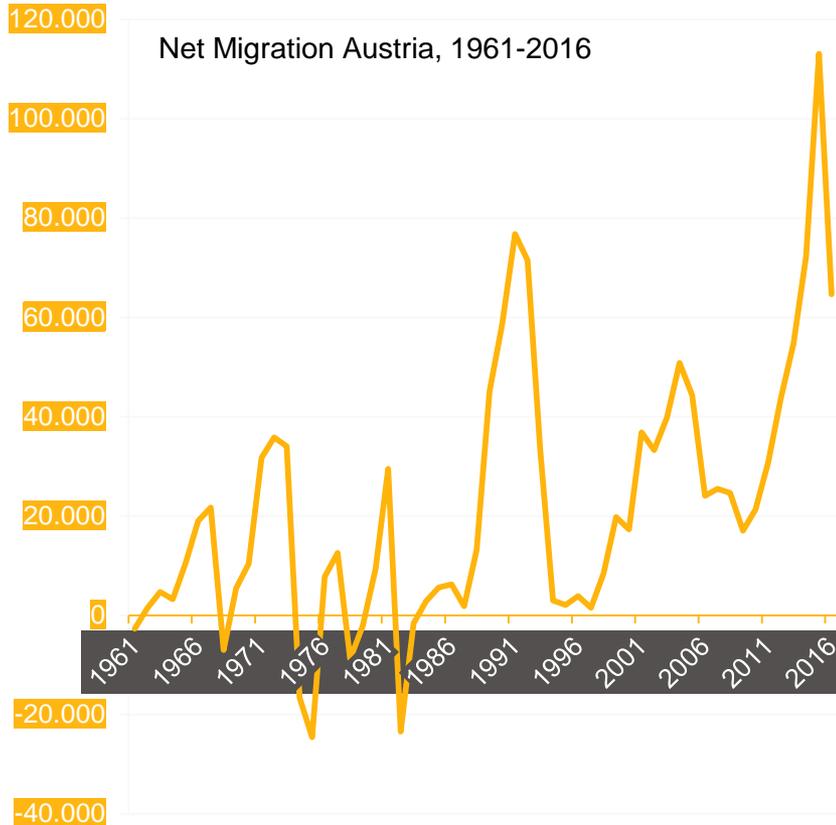
Migration and social transformation

Specific impacts of recent migration flows

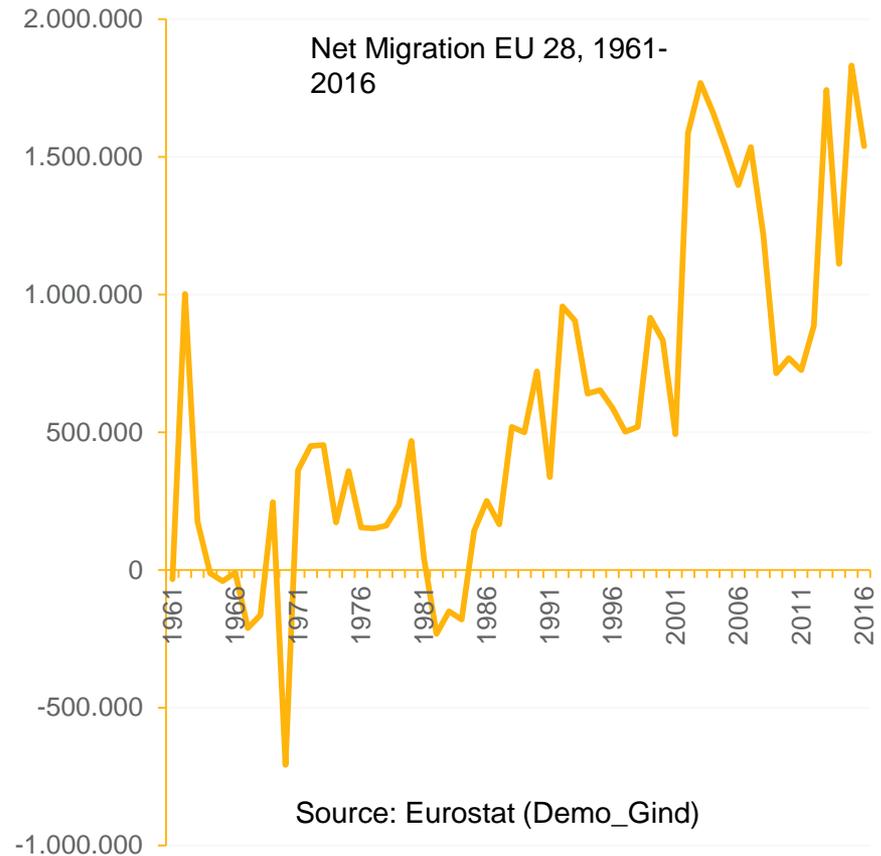
Migration and social cohesion

Conclusion

# ...period characterised by high levels and historical peaks in migration

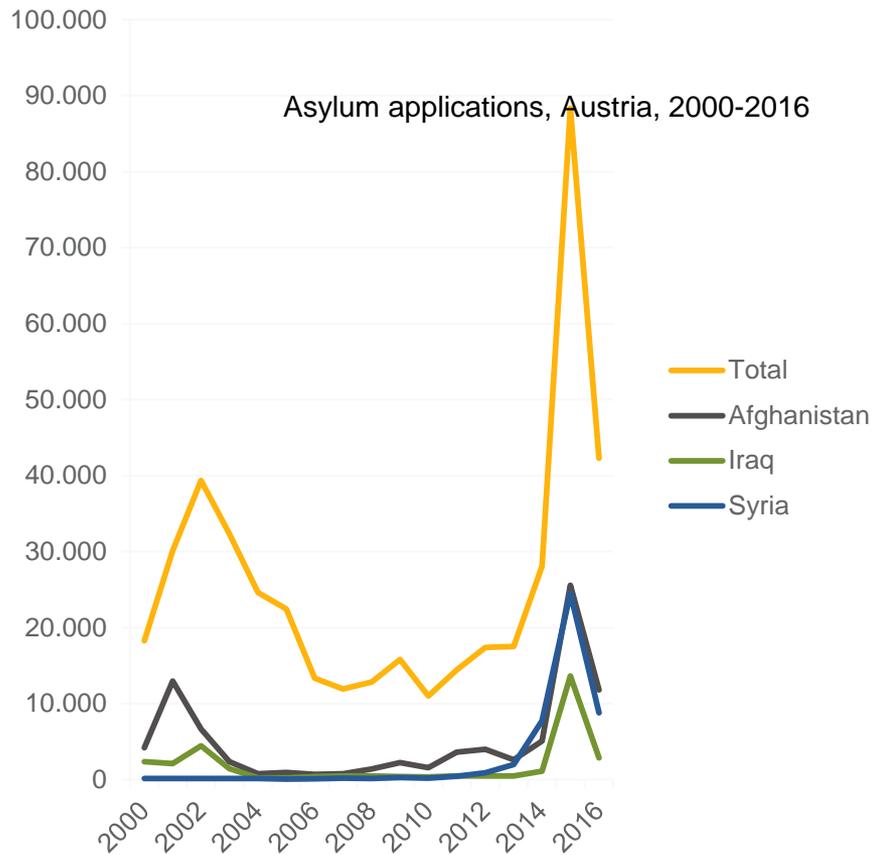


Source: Statistics Austria

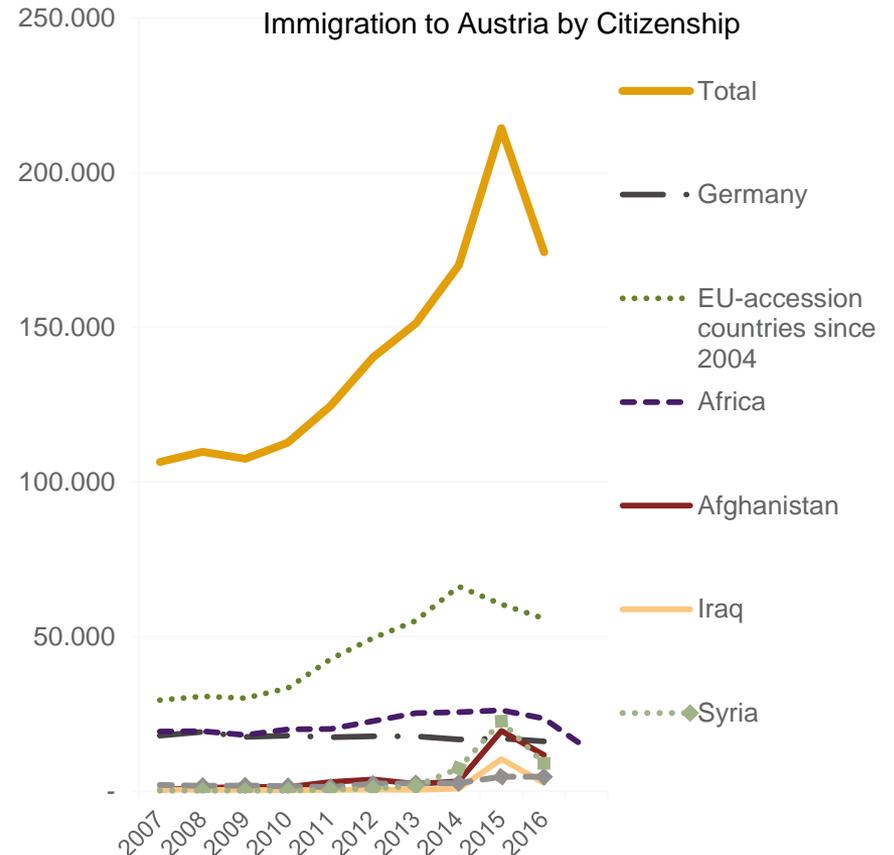


Source: Eurostat (Demo\_Gind)

# ....reflecting peaks in asylum inflows as well as increasing intra-EU mobility from post-2004 accession countries

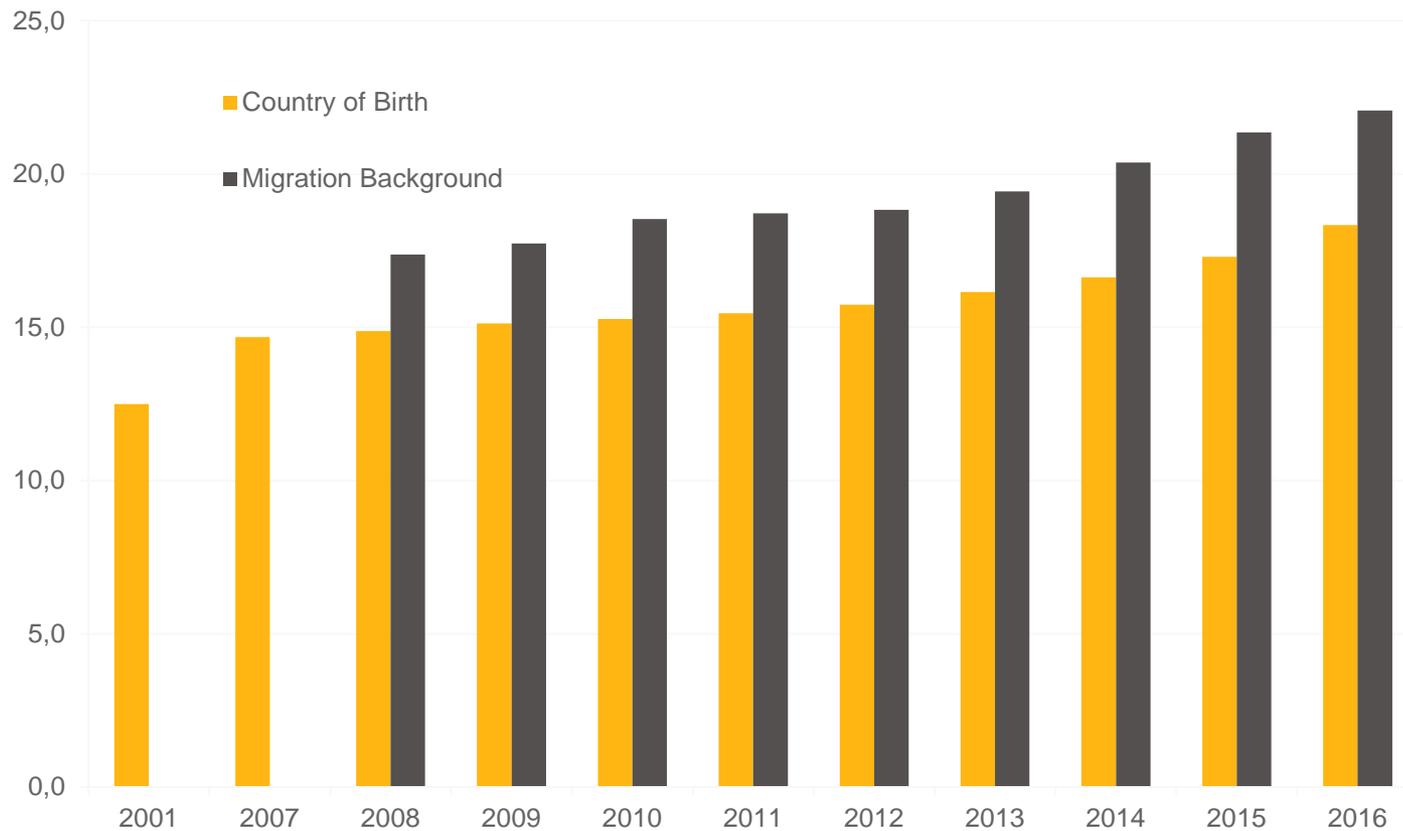


Source: Statistics Austria



Source: Statistics Austria

## ... And a changing composition of the population



# How to assess the impact of migration?

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- What is Impact?
  - » X has effects on Y
  - » Question about impacts of migration expands the narrow focus on immigrants and their incorporation on broader consequences affecting the entire society.
    - Focus on immigrants' dominant question in integration/migration research since the first studies (e.g. Wimmer 1986 for Austria)
    - Example: migration and employment, it is then not just about immigrants' labour market performance, but about the impact on natives, structural features of particular labour markets, labour relations, etc.
    - Implies broader information/ data needs and need for studies examining impacts
    - Impacts cannot simply be observed!
      - › E.g. Growth of unemployment due to refugee inflows: increases number of welfare beneficiaries, but arguably does not reflect growth of unemployment as such in any meaningful way (employability)

## How to assess the impact of migration (continued)

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- Neither migration (the independent variable) nor the dependent variable (society, the specific fields on which migration is supposed to have an impact) are fixed categories, but have undergone noticeable shifts over time
  - » What is conceived as migration, who are defined as migrants etc. has undergone noticeable shifts in the past 2-3 decades
    - E.g. Shift framing of migration from „foreigners“ (and foreign workers), to migrants (measured by country of birth) to the wider population with a migrant background
    - The migration debates not directly linked to migration dynamics
      - › Whether or not there is high immigration migration may be a prominent issue
    - Expanding scope of debates on migration in terms of target groups also implies a wider focus on a much wider range of societal issues.

# The changing scope of integration policy

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- Transformation of integration policy to a broad societal policy field (*Gesellschaftspolitik*)
  - » Shift from narrow focus on immediate incorporation and associated needs (notably labour market integration, language acquisition) to a broad field covering all relevant societal spheres.
  - » Reframing of wider policy issues as integration policy issues and/ or strong issue linkage
    - Example of debates on education outcomes and education reform
    - Example of debates on pre-school education (kindergarten)
    - Example on welfare restructuring/ welfare benefits
  
- Implicit assumption of causal link of migration and outcomes in various fields in public debates
  - » However, migration in parallel to or in fact part of broader social transformations (Amelina et al. 2016)

# Migration and social transformation

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- Example: Flexibilisation of labour
  - » Growth in „atypical“ employment in Austria, or more generally, of the the „precariat“ (Standing 2011) across Europe and on the global level linked to growth of particular forms of international labour mobility
    - causality is difficult to establish; rather we see an interdependent relationship
    - In some instances linked to deregulation (e.g. delivery services)
    - More prominently, especially in Austria emergence of new types of jobs/ unregulated professions (e.g. care work, other types of services based on service contracts etc..)
  - » Migration is an element in changing patterns of employment, but not its cause
  - » Also linked to changing patterns of mobility
    - Circular mobility of care and other workers

## Migration and social transformation (continued)

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- Example child care/ pre-school education and elderly care :
  - » Longstanding processes of defamiliarisation responded to by a mix of (inadequate) public offers and market driven offers
  
  - » Child care
    - Long-standing pressures for transforming child care institution into education institutions
    - Migration has exacerbated and highlighted the challenges primary schools face and created pressures to professionalise child care institutions
    - Migration/ integration debate as a vehicle and driver of change
  
  - » Elderly care
    - Introduction of care allowances in early 1990s has created a largely informal market for care services
      - › Underlying drivers: demographic ageing, changing attitudes towards family obligations, increasing female employment participation, changing attitudes towards home based care vs. institutional care, etc.
  
    - Specific form of care work (levels of remuneration, working in shifts etc.) directly linked to transnational circulation of migrant workers and continuing anchoring in countries of origin (cf. Notion of „target earners“, Piore 1977).

# Specific impacts of recent migration flows

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- Are there specific impacts?
  - While the impact of migration more often than not raises questions about the interrelationship between migration flows or the presence of migrants and changes or pressures for change in particular fields, there are a number of impacts that are more directly linked to new migration flows
  
- » **Public Services**
  - › Schools:
    - › Larger number of new school entrants in total and with specific support needs
    - › Also larger number of pupils entering higher grades from abroad with specific support needs
    - › Changing profile of migrants requires different profile / new skills (notably language-wide) of cultural mediators
  
  - › Welfare benefits and other support needs („integration support“, diversity management)
    - › Specifically relevant in the case of refugees

# Specific impacts of recent migration flows

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- » Impact on public services (continued)
  - Impact on integration support
    - › Geography of asylum/ refugee reception and need for decentralised support
    - › Need to adapt public services to presence of new types of migrants
      - › E.g. Availability of information in new languages, specialised interpretation services (e.g. In the health system), etc.
  
- » Impact on housing
  - Impact of large inflows on housing market in general
  - Specific impacts on social housing/ subsidised parts of the housing markets
  
- » Public infrastructure
  - Related to housing needs and associated urban development
  
- » Wider social impacts
  - Return of religion, new religious diversity

# Migration and social cohesion

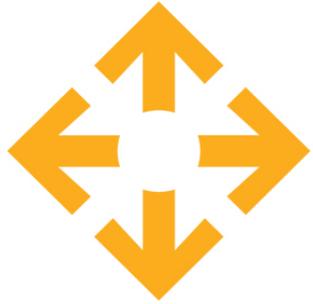
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- Migration also has less tangible, but nevertheless crucially important impacts on what can be subsumed under the broad notion of social cohesion
  - » Sense of inclusion/belonging/identity, ‚connectedness‘ with institutions and each other, sense of solidarity, sense of community, sense of orientation towards a common good (Hofmann n.d. [2014])
  - » Reflected both in attitudes and practices
    - civic forms of participation: associational life, active participation in faith communities, ethnic vs. mainstream associations,
    - Membership in parties, trade unions
    - Values, trust, political attitudes and preferences

# Conclusions

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- Question on impacts of (recent) migration flows is very valid one
- At the same time the question is very far reaching and potentially concerns all relevant social dimensions and raises the question of the interaction of migration with broader social dynamics.



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