

# **Migrants' children and socio-economic achievement: patterns of inclusion in Western Europe**

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Children of immigrants are becoming an increasingly relevant component of European societies, and their study is gaining momentum and broadening its range and scope. Of particular concern is their socio-economic inclusion in the host labor market, as a way to evaluate from a long-term perspective the process of ethnic stratification in the receiving country and the mechanisms of transmission of social inequality (Zhou and Bankston, 2016).

Relatedly, the literature has largely recognized the relevance of the individual socio-economic background of origin as a driver of the immigrants' children "fate" (Heath et al., 2008; Portes and Zhou, 1993), and how this may operate differently among native individuals and those with a migratory background (Avola and Piccitto, 2020; Panichella et al., 2021; Zuccotti and Platt, 2023). Still, this issue has, due to absence of data, understudied in a cross-country perspective. Also, the considerable increase of research on labor market attainment of immigrants' children has focused on old migration countries, with this topic remaining largely unexplored in the new receiving contexts (Gabrielli and Impicciatore, 2022).

This work aims at filling these gaps, by exploiting a particularly suitable source of data represented by two Eurostat "ad hoc modules" (2014 and 2021) of the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). Applying multivariate statistical techniques to these data, it provides, for the first time, a comprehensive overview of the migrants' labor market achievement in 9 Western European countries, accounting for the different migrant generations.

In this way, it is possible to provide an assessment of the ethnic stratification of migrants belonging to different generations in the European labor markets, explicitly accounting for their social class of origin in the analyses.

Starting from the OED triangle (Blau and Duncan, 1967) different links of the interplay between migration status, education, and social origin in shaping the individual socio-economic achievement will be inquired.

The two "ad hoc modules" of the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) used for the analyses contain key information; not only they include the information on own country of birth, but also on the country of birth of the respondent's father and mother; also, they contain the information on the respondent's year of arrival in the host country. With these variables is possible to precisely

define the migrants' generation. In the analyses, 9 Western European countries are considered: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. The sample consists of men and women aged 16-64.

Individuals in the sample are distinguished on the basis of their migration status, as follows: a) natives those born in the 'host' country with both native parents; b) first-generation migrants from high emigration countries (Hec): those born in a less socio-economically developed countries and arrived in the 'host' country when older than 12 years; c) immigrants' children: 3 those born in the 'host' country with at least one foreign parent and those born abroad (with at least one foreign parent) but migrated in Italy when younger than 7 years.

Additionally, due to the fact that data provide the information on the social background of the respondent, it is possible to test the hypothesis that the observed patterns of downward assimilation of immigrants' children are mainly due to their low social background of origin; if so, such disadvantages would be driven solely by 'ethnic-neutral' mechanisms of inter-generational reproduction of existing of inequalities.