

Migrant Fertility in Europe: Accelerated Decline During the Recession Period?

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Background

Aggregate-level research on migrant fertility

- Very few comparative studies; mostly focus on individual countries (including on specific migrant groups)
 - Data availability, data quality issues, definitions.
 - Indicators: Period TFR problematic; affected by the timing of migration – interrelation of migration and fertility (Andersson 2004; Toulemon & Mazuy 2004; Parrado 2011; Mussino & Strozza 2012)
 - Aggregate measures not representing any specific group
 - Frequent mismatch between birth data (births by age and migr. status of the mother) and population data (women by age and migr. status)

Background

Past research (e.g., Sobotka 2008; Kulu and Gonzales-Ferrer 2013; Adsera and Ferrer 2014)

- Higher fertility of migrants in Western, Northern and Southern Europe
- Gradual convergence between native and migrant women's fertility, but huge differences between countries
- Modest positive impact on the TFR in most countries; slight contribution to the TFR increase between the late 1990s and 2008 in some countries (Goldstein et al. 2009; Landschoot et al. 2014; Tromans 2009)
- High & rising contribution of migrants to the number of births
- Huge differences between migrant groups (Kulu and Hannemann 2016; Alders 2002; Bagavos 2008; Coleman & Dubuc 2010; Cygan-Rehm 2014; Dubuc 2009; Toulemon 2004; Garssen 2008; Lappegard 2000; Mussino & Strozza 2012; Rosero-Bixby et al, 2011; Schmid & Kohls 2009; Tonnessen 2014; Tsimbos 2008)
- Within countries: convergence to native F with duration of stay, earlier age at migration & among 2nd G migrants

Migrant fertility during the recession period

Decline in period fertility in most countries in Europe

- Close correlation between unemployment and fertility trends (fertility pro-cyclical)
- Main exceptions: Eastern Europe, France, German-speaking countries

Faster decline in period fertility among migrants?

- Migrant groups often most affected: more vulnerable labour market position, informal work, sharper rise in unemployment
- Stronger fertility reactions to the labour markets downturns?
- Also rapid change in migration dynamics in the most affected countries in Southern Europe

Agenda

1. An update on long-term changes in migrant fertility in Europe, 1980-2015

- Convergence between native and foreign-born women?
- Regional trends
- Updating & expanding earlier study (Sobotka 2008)

2. Migrant fertility during the recent recession, 2008-13

- Accelerated decline, especially in the most affected countries (Southern Europe)?
- Regional differences
- Contribution of migrants to the observed TFR decline

3. Recent patterns & differentials in migrant fertility (2014)

- A shift to sub-replacement fertility among migrant women?
- How strong effect on national TFRs & on the share of births?

Data & measurement

Data

- National statistical offices, official reports & country research studies for the period 1980/2002 – 2015 (9 countries)
- Eurostat data (2016) on births by age of mother & mother's country of birth (citizenship) and female population by country of birth (citizenship) 2008-14
- 20 countries included, own computations; unknowns usually redistributed
- Data for some countries and years excluded: instability, implausible TFR levels, inconsistencies, high share of unknowns

Indicators:

- Period TFR by country of birth (foreign-born vs. native-born women)
- Citizenship data used for some countries for which data on country of birth not available, especially for the long-term pattern (Austria, Italy, Germany, Greece, Switzerland)
- Also absolute and relative differences between these groups; “net impact” of foreign-born women on local TFR
- Share of births to foreign-born mothers

Country & regional coverage

Covering countries & regions with migration history, higher share of migrants and more reliable data: Western Europe, Nordic countries, Southern Europe

- Central and Eastern Europe largely excluded: mostly low share of migrant women (age 15-49: PL 0.6%, BG 0.8% (citizenship), ROM 1.0% in 2014); limited data availability, unstable estimates; unknown data

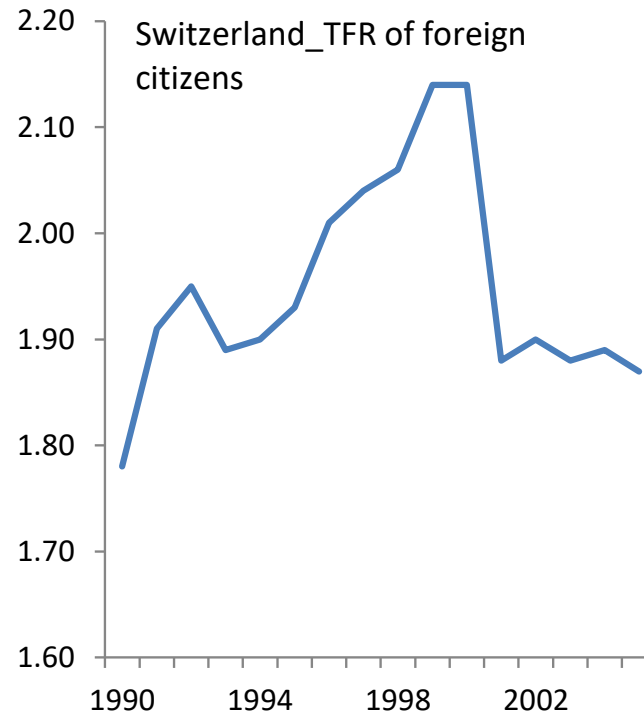
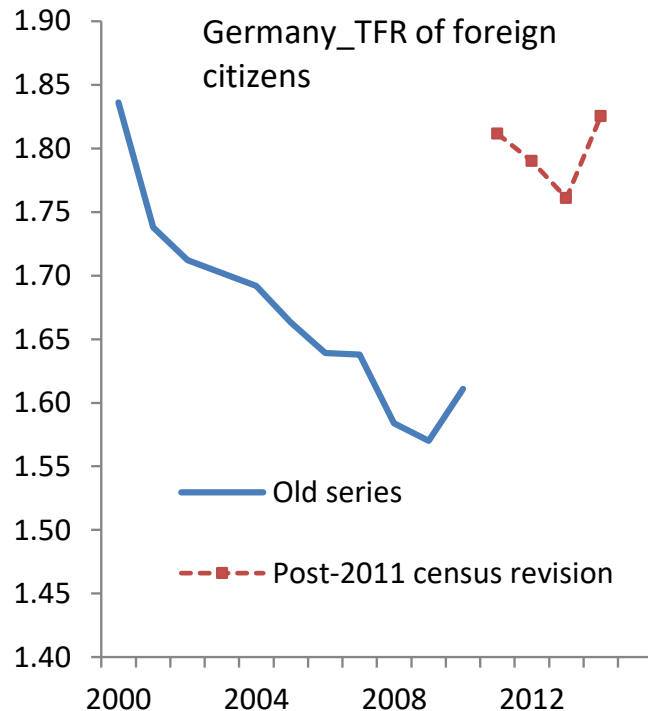
Countries analysed within broader regions

- Western Europe: Belgium, Luxembourg, **Netherlands**, France, Ireland, **UK**
- Nordic countries: **Denmark**, Finland, Iceland, **Norway**, Sweden
- Southern Europe: Greece, **Italy**, Portugal, **Spain**
- German-speaking countries: **Austria**, **Germany**, **Switzerland**
- (Central Europe: Czech Republic, Slovenia)

Data issues: Illustrations

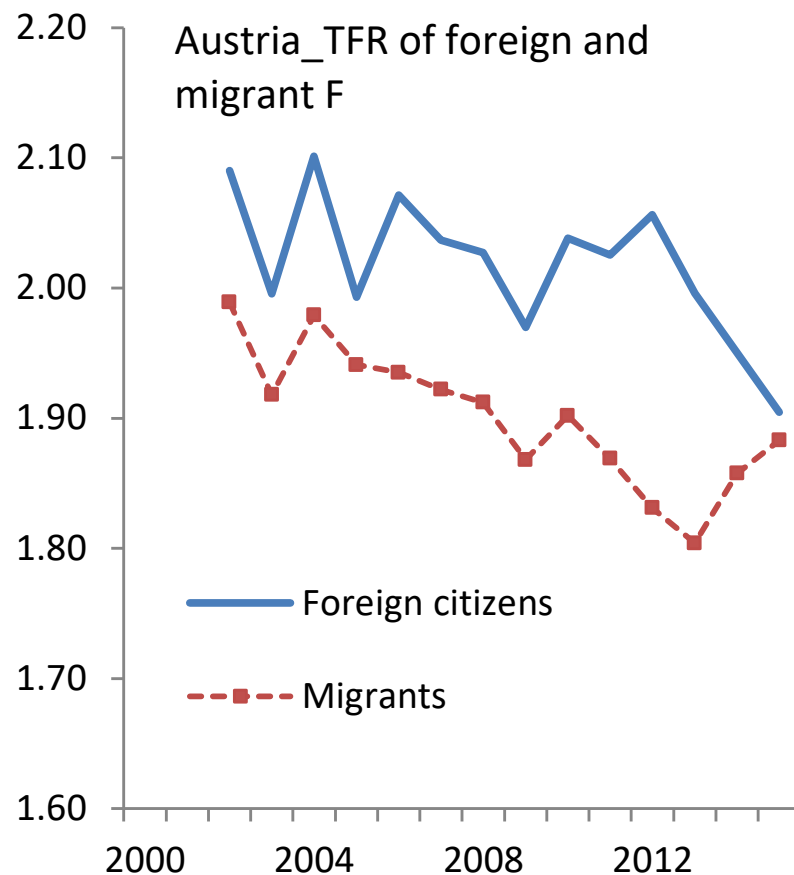
Discontinuities, series breaks, definition changes

- Challenges in estimating migrant-origin populations: series breaks & adjustments after pop. censuses (e.g., Germany > 2011, Poetsch 2016)
- Changes in the definition of foreign mothers included in the officially reported data: asylum-seekers in Switzerland around 2000
- Women with unknown country of birth, births with unknown C. of B. of mother



Data for country of birth vs. citizenship

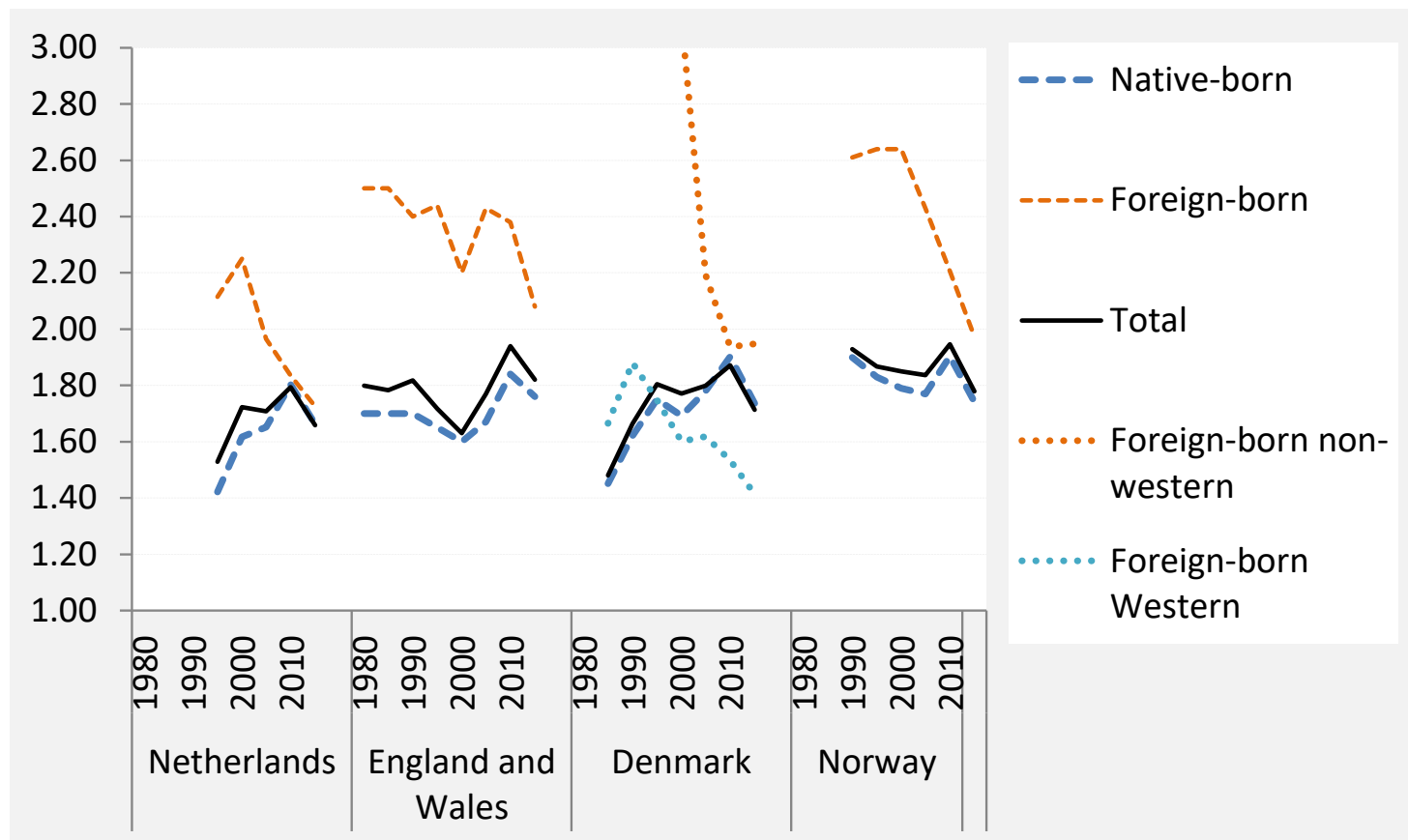
- **Data for migrant women:**
Unambiguous definition of country of birth, comparable across countries
- **Citizenship data more problematic:** Selectivity, also through cross-country differences in obtaining citizenship.
- Smaller group of more recent & less assimilated migrants; often with higher fertility



1 Long-term changes in migrant & native fertility, 1980 - 2015

Western & Northern Europe

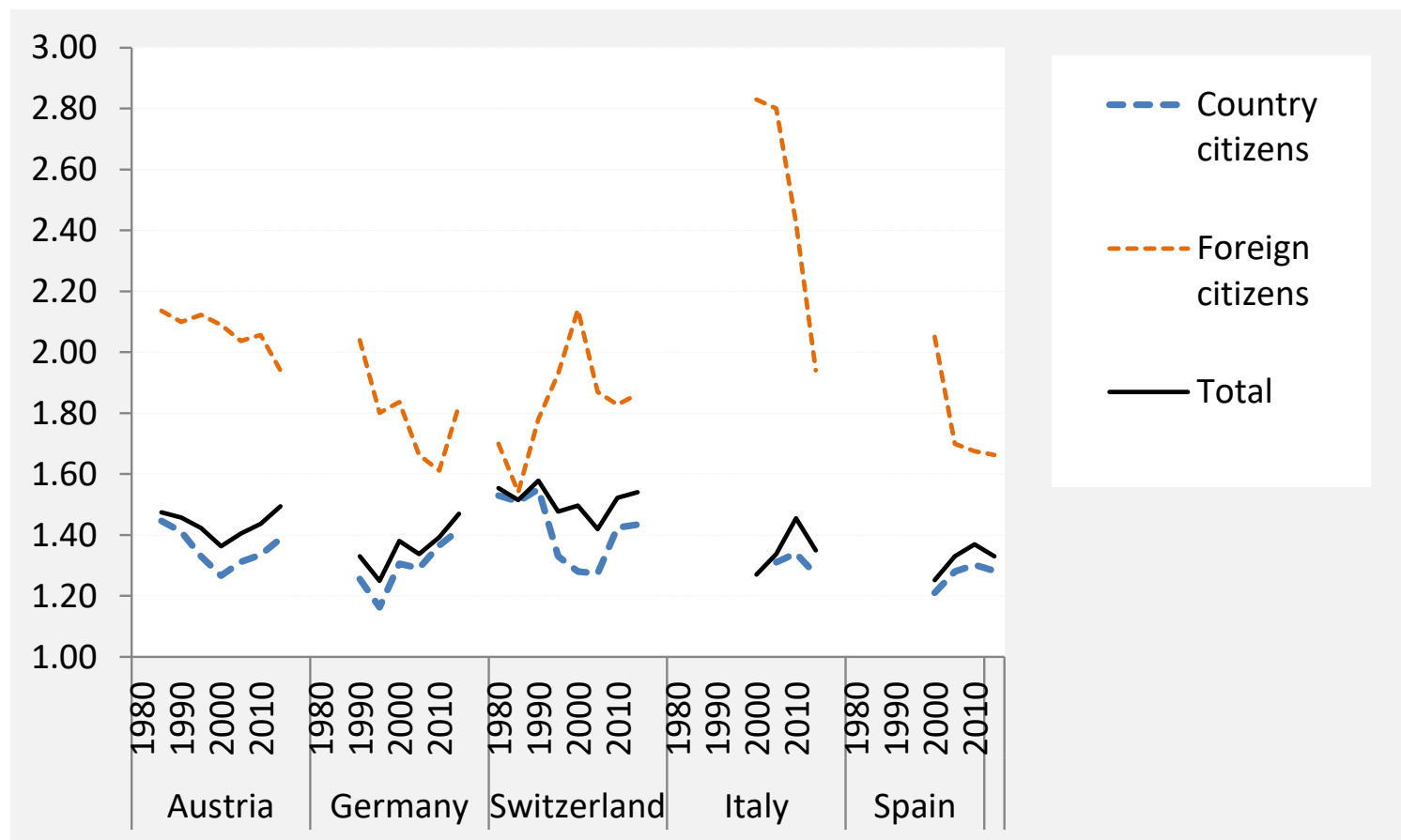
TFR among migrant and native women, 1980-2015



Sources: Statistics Netherlands (CBS Statline) 2016, ONS 2016, Toennessen 2014; Statistics Denmark 2016; Eurostat 2017 (own computations)

Southern Europe & German-speaking countries

TFR among foreign F and citizens of the country, 1980-2015

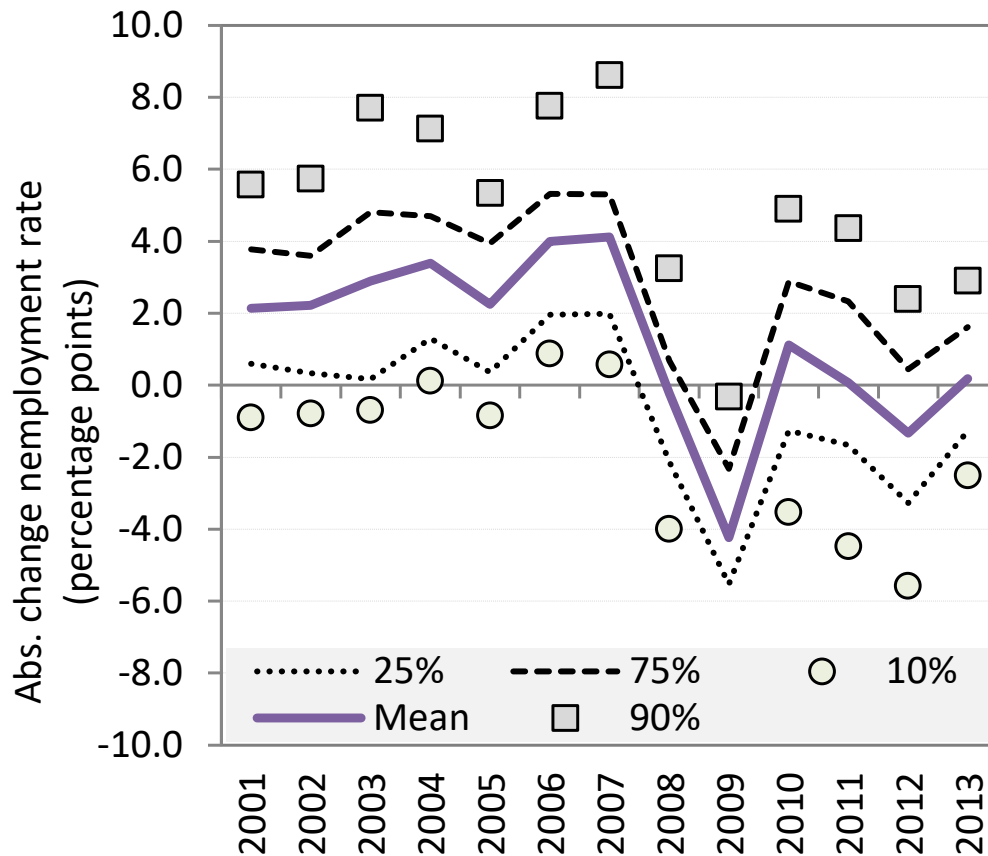


Sources: Geburtenbarometer (Zeman et al 2015), Statistisches Bundesamt 2015, SFSO (Bevnat) 2016; ISTAT 2016; INE 2016; Eurostat 2017 (own computations)

2 Migrant & native fertility during the recession period, 2008 - 2013

A two-stage recession in Europe, 2008-13

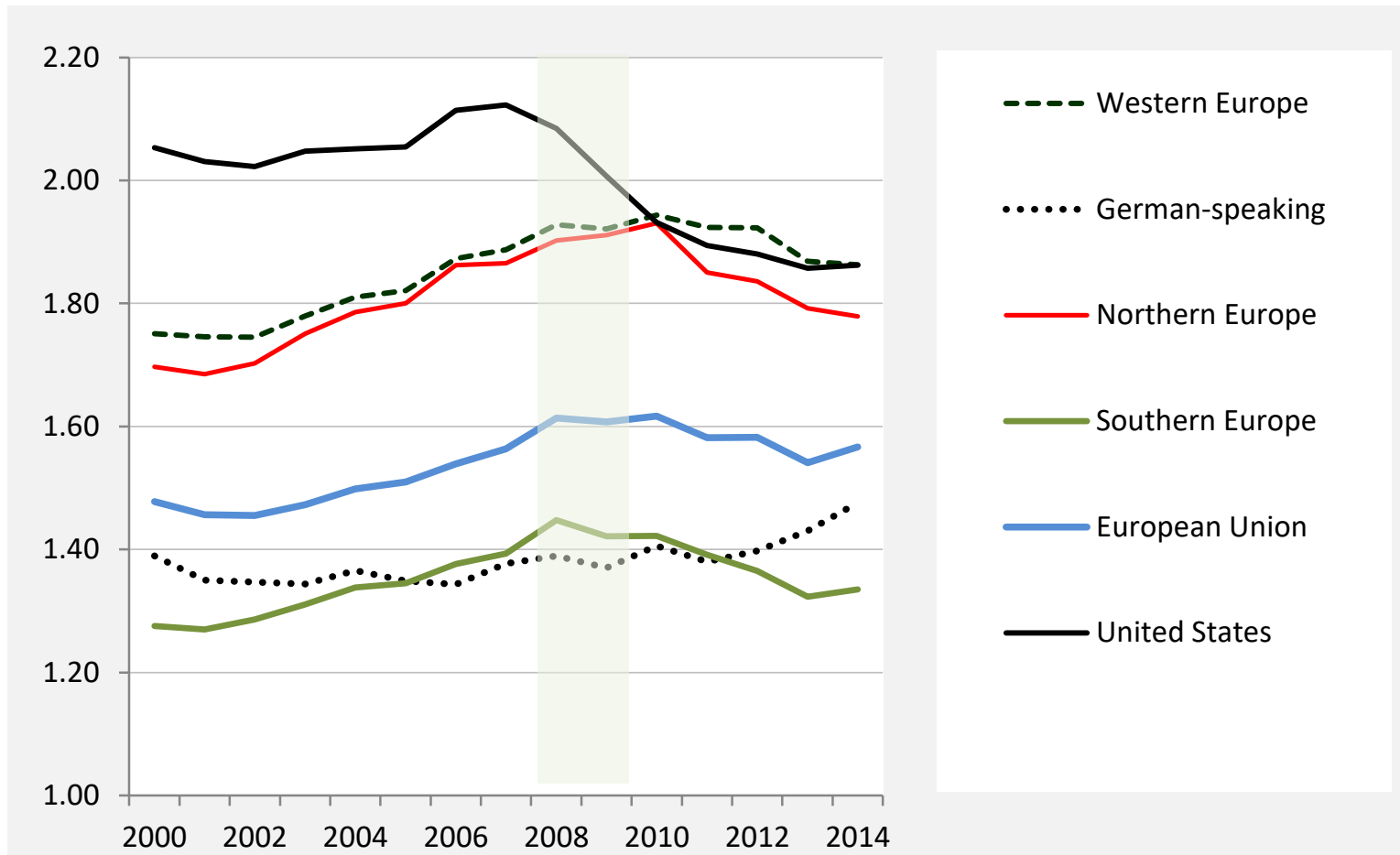
Annual GDP change in current prices, ca 220 NUTS2 regions in EU + Switzerland, Norway, Iceland



Computations from Eurostat
(2017) data

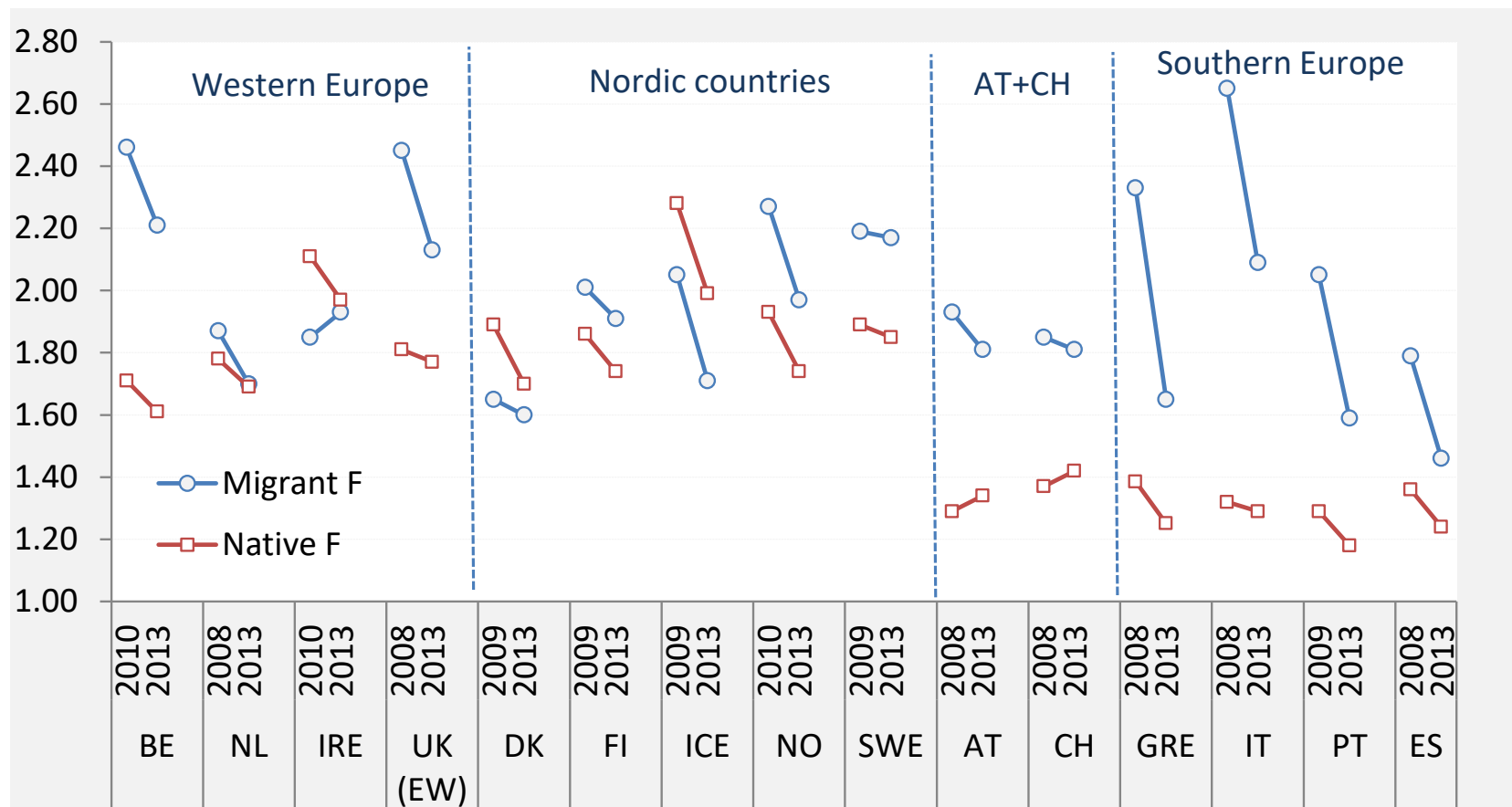
Change in TFR trends during the recession in Europe (except Eastern Europe)

TFR in broader European regions and in the United States, 2000-2014



TFR trend: migrant vs. native women

TFR change among migrant and native women, 2008 (2009, 10) - 2013

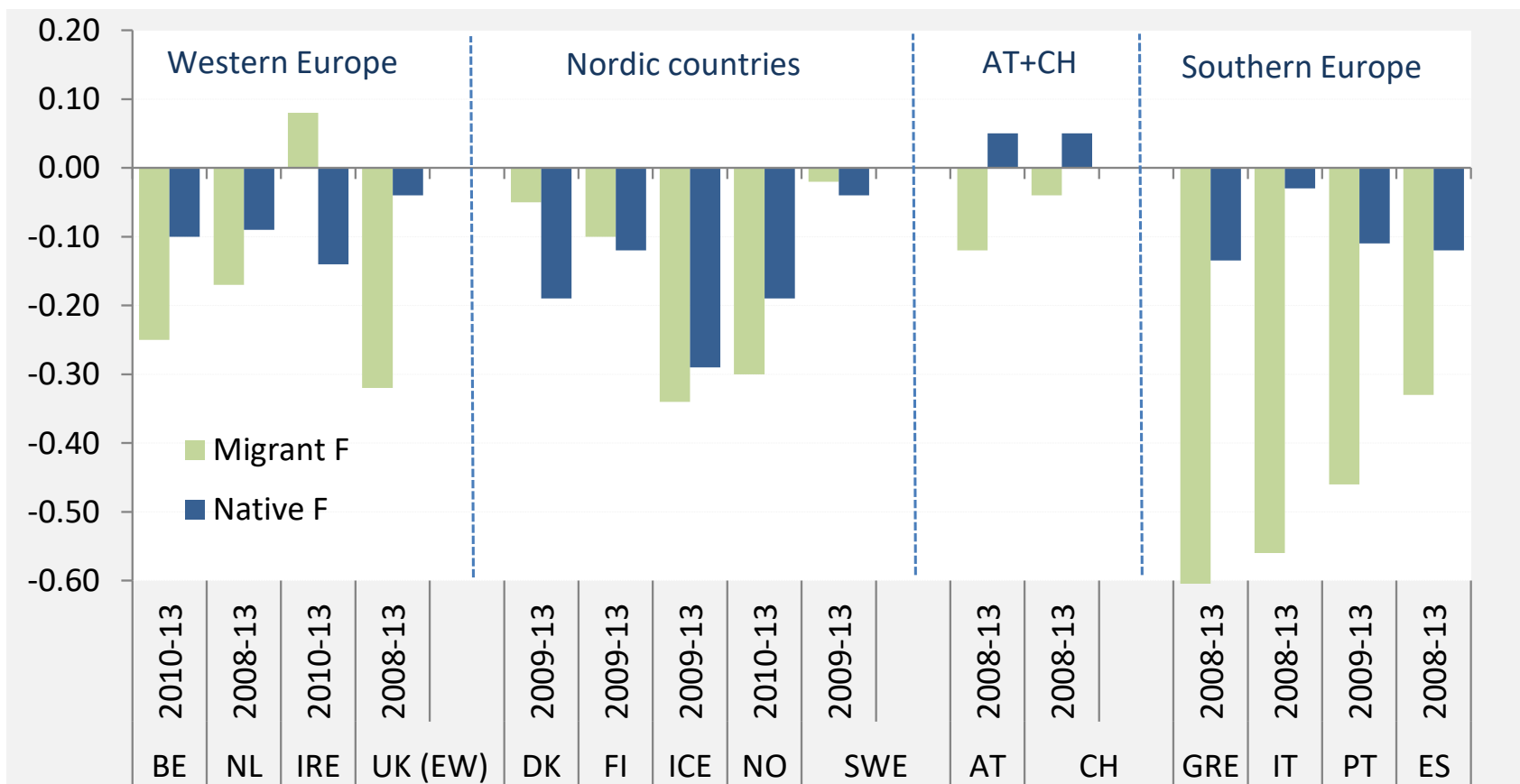


Notes: Data for Switzerland, Greece, Italy and Portugal by citizenship

Sources: Eurostat (2017), own computations and national statistical offices

Absolute TFR change, 2008-13

Absolute TFR change among migrant and native women, 2008- 2013

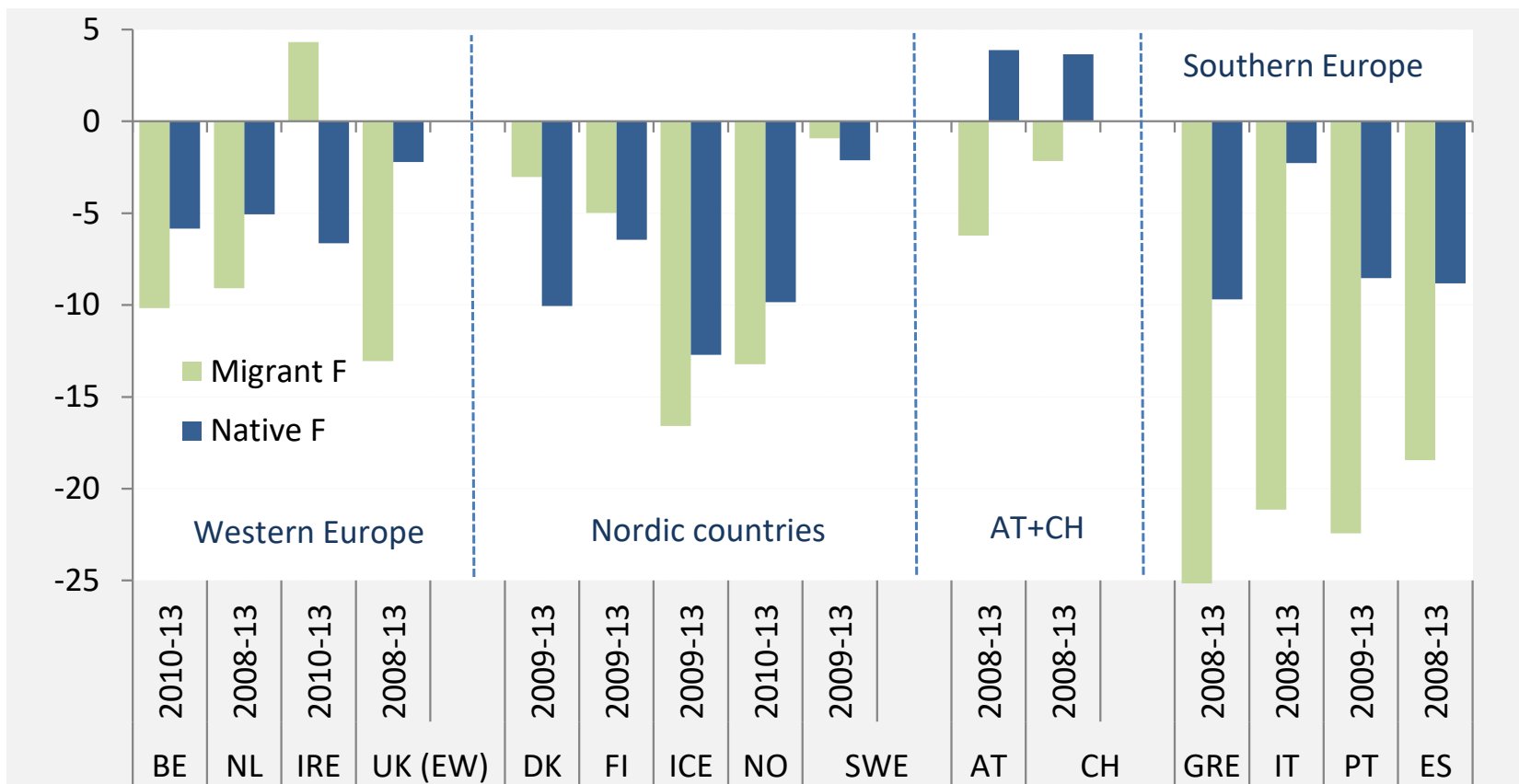


Notes: Data for Switzerland, Greece, Italy and Portugal by citizenship

Sources: Eurostat (2017), own computations and national statistical offices

Relative TFR change, 2008-13

Relative TFR change among migrant and native women, 2008- 2013, %

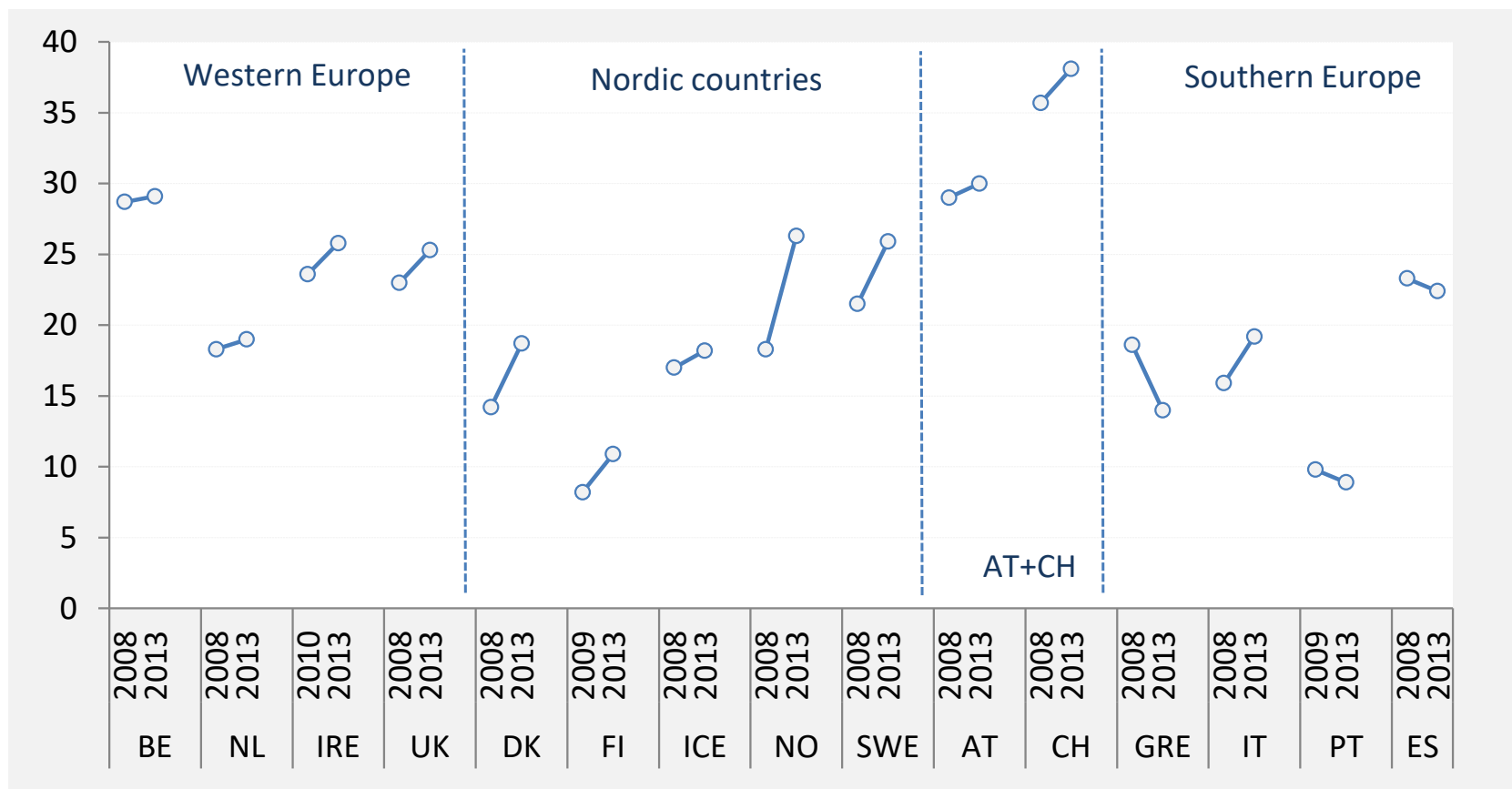


Notes: Data for Switzerland, Greece, Italy and Portugal by citizenship

Sources: Eurostat (2017), own computations and national statistical offices

Share of births to migrant women

Share of births to migrant women, 2008 (2009, 10) - 2013, %



Notes: Data for Switzerland, Greece, Italy and Portugal by citizenship

Sources: Eurostat (2017), own computations and national statistical offices

Did migrant women contribute to the observed TFR decline during the recession?

- Faster fall in migrants' TFR could have contributed to “pushing” the TFR of a country to a lower level
- Comparing the size of the TFR decline in the country with the TFR decline among the “native” women
- Absolute contribution of migrant fertility to the TFR change in the country:

$$EMF(t, t+1) = \Delta TFR(t, t+1) - \Delta TFR_{native}(t, t+1)$$

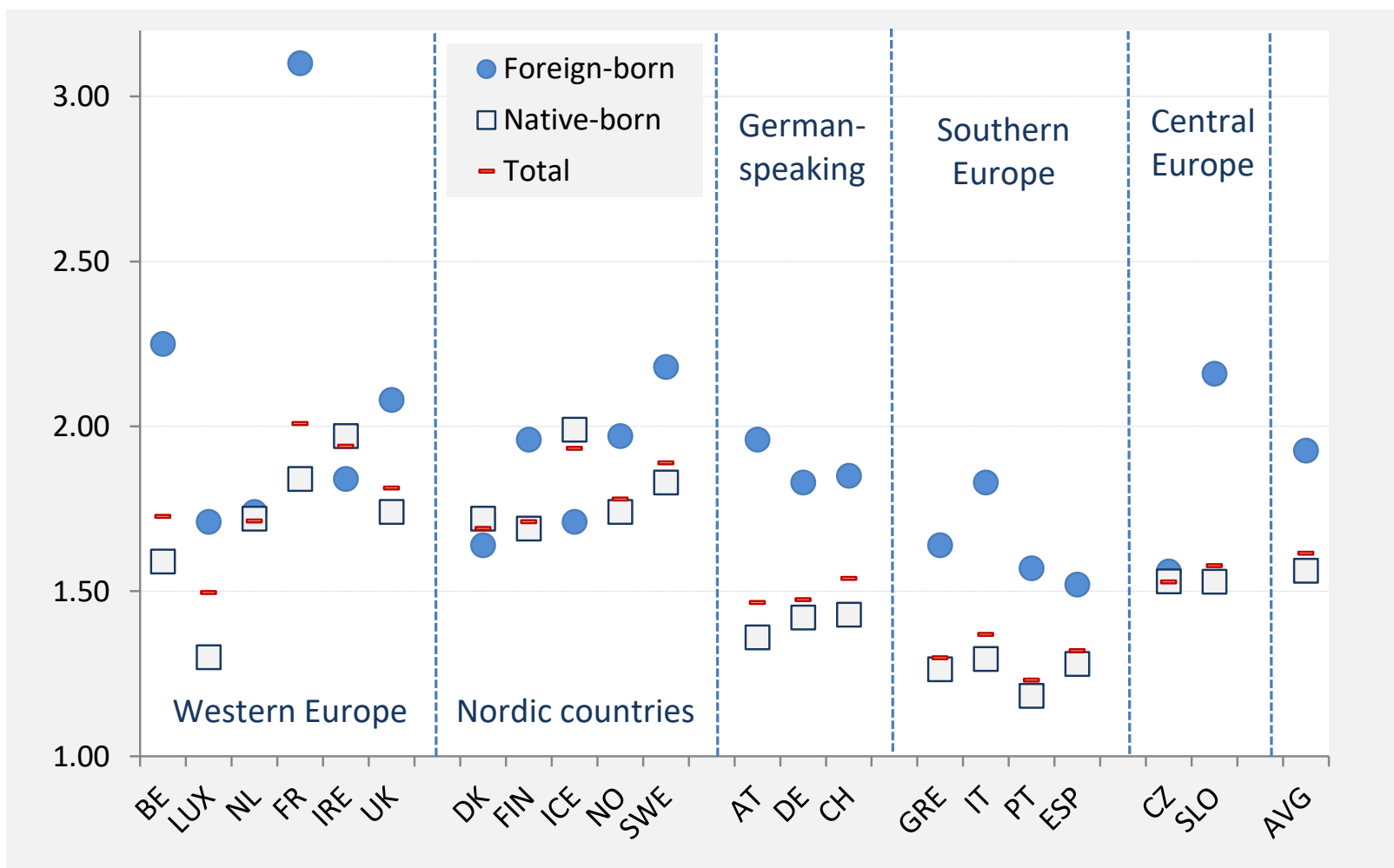
- Evidence for 13 countries with abs. TFR decline by at least 0.07 between 2008 (2009, 10) and 2013

Did migrant women contribute to the observed TFR decline during the recession?

	Period	TFR decline	TFR change native F	Net effect of migrants	% contribution migrants
Western Europe					
Belgium	2010-13	-0.12	-0.10	-0.02	14
Netherlands	2010-13	-0.12	-0.11	0.00	2
Ireland	2010-13	-0.09	-0.14	0.05	xx
UK	2010-13	-0.09	-0.06	-0.04	40
Nordic countries					
Denmark	2009-13	-0.17	-0.17	0.00	xx
Finland	2009-13	-0.12	-0.12	0.00	xx
Iceland	2009-13	-0.29	-0.29	-0.01	2
Norway	2009-13	-0.20	-0.19	-0.01	4
Sweden	2010-13	-0.10	-0.09	0.00	2
Southern Europe					
Greece	2009-13	-0.23	-0.13	-0.10	44
Italy	2010-13	-0.07	-0.05	-0.02	24
Portugal	2010-13	-0.18	-0.16	-0.03	14
Spain	2008-13	-0.17	-0.13	-0.05	26

3 Recent patterns and differentials in migrant fertility

TFR by migration status, 2014 (2013)



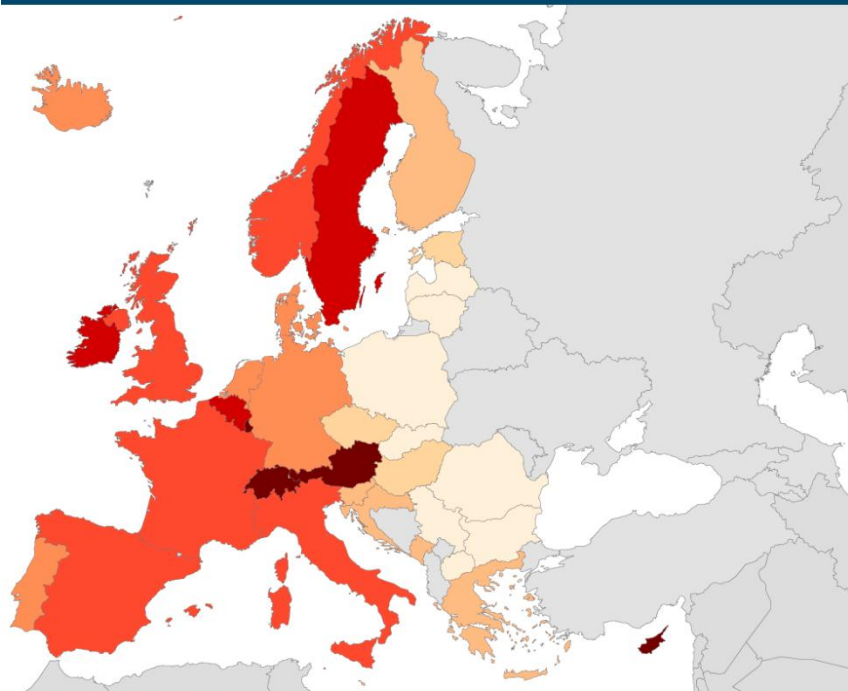
Notes: Data for Germany, Switzerland and Greece by citizenship

Sources: Eurostat (2017), own computations and national statistical offices

Share of births to foreign-born mothers & net effect of migrant fertility on the TFR, 2013

SHARE OF BIRTHS TO FOREIGN BORN WOMEN

2013



Share of births to foreign born women, in %

Min: Poland 0.4 | Max: Luxembourg 64.2

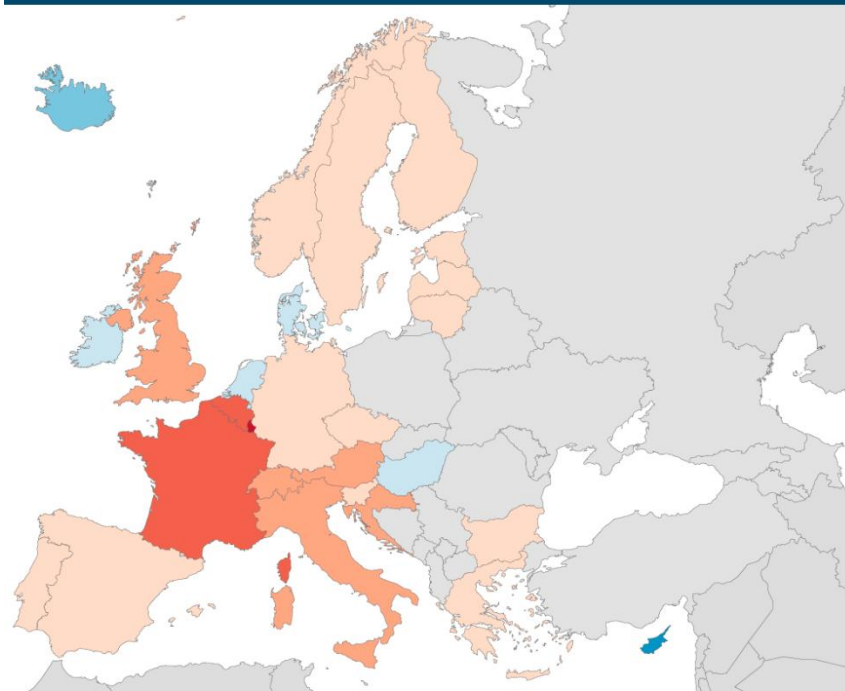


Data: EURREP | Geometry: EUROSTAT

Cartography: Eder/Potanzčoková, ÖAW/VID DataLab

NET EFFECT OF MIGRANTS TO TFR

2013



Children per woman

Min: Cyprus - 0.15 | Max: Luxembourg 0.23

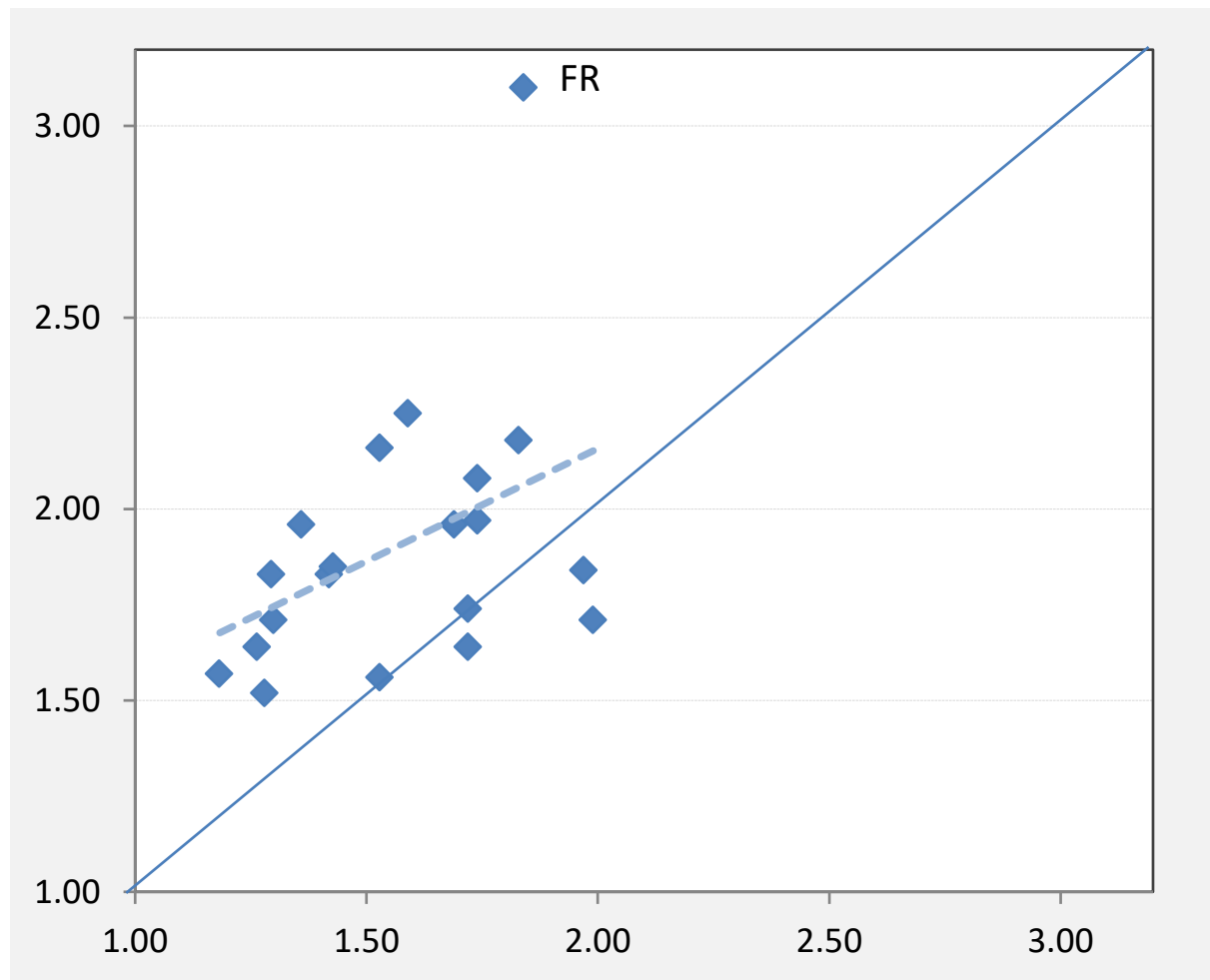


Data: EURREP | Geometry: EUROSTAT

Cartography: Eder/Potanzčoková, ÖAW/VID DataLab

Source: European Fertility Datasheet 2015; www.fertilitydatasheet.org

The link between TFR for native and migrant women, 20 countries, 2014 or 2013



Notes: Data for Germany, Switzerland and Greece by citizenship

Sources: Eurostat (2017), own computations and national statistical offices

Migrant vs. Native fertility: selected countries with a strong contribution of migrant women, 2014

	TFR		Total	Net Effect	% births to migrant F	Absolute difference TFR	Relative diff TFR migr / native F
	Migrants	Native					
Western Europe							
Belgium	2.25	1.59	1.73	0.14	30	0.66	1.42
France	3.10	1.84	2.01	0.17	21	1.26	1.68
UK	2.08	1.74	1.81	0.07	26	0.34	1.20
Nordic countries							
Norway	1.97	1.74	1.78	0.04	27	0.23	1.13
Sweden	2.18	1.83	1.89	0.06	27	0.35	1.19
German-speaking C.							
Austria	1.96	1.36	1.47	0.11	31	0.60	1.44
Germany	1.83	1.42	1.47	0.05	26	0.41	1.29
Switzerland	1.85	1.43	1.54	0.11	39	0.42	1.29
Southern Europe							
Italy	1.83	1.29	1.37	0.07	22	0.54	1.41
18 countries (pop > 1 mill.)							
Average	1.93	1.56	1.61	0.05	22	0.36	1.24

Notes: Data for Germany by citizenship; data for Norway for 2013

Sources: Eurostat (2017), own computations and national statistical offices

Summary & discussion

Key findings

Long-term trends

- Convergence, partly also due to modest TFR rise among native women in the 1990s and 2000s
- A shift to sub-replacement fertility among migrants (ex. France)

Recession period

- Accelerated convergence; faster fall in migrant fertility (11 out of 15 countries in abs. and relative terms)
- Very strong shift in Southern Europe, also in the share of births (ex IT)
- Only a limited contribution of migrants to overall TFR declines
- Contrasting influence of declining migrant TFR and their rising share

Recent patterns

- Small “net impact” of migrants on TFR in most countries, but a high and rising share on total births
- Migrant TFR now below 2.3 in all analysed countries except France

Discussion, future research

Data

- Despite data issues rather consistent trends across countries & regions; robust findings
- Also when citizenship data used instead of country of birth
- Many irregularities especially in CEE countries

Future research

- Contribution of different migrant groups to migrant TFR changes
- Going beyond the TFR: finer indicators of fertility tempo and quantum
- Rebounding migrant fertility after the economic recession?
- Closer analysis of business cycles and migrant fertility



European Demographic Data Sheet 2016



Data, texts, graphics, rankings & info on European fertility
and population trends

www.fertilitydatasheet.org

www.populationeurope.org

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