

Research Question and Description

To what degree do family policies include, and are used by, migrants and their descendants?

To what extent do such policies promote migrants' integration into European societies?

The collection contains six empirical articles investigating either eligibility or use and consequences of two specific family policy measures: (1) Parental leave and (2) Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).

Mussino, Eleonora, Elisabeth Kraus & Nadja Milewski. Introduction to the Thematic Series: Use and consequences of family policies among migrants and their descendants in Europe. Genus, 79(1), 25.

Parental Leave

Duvander, Ann-Zofie & Alison Koslowski. Access to parenting leaves for recent immigrants: a cross-national view of policy architecture in Europe.

- Recently arrived migrants across European countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, UK) face differential access to parental leave benefits based on residence requirements, insurance payments, and employment duration
- Migrants typically receive lower-tier benefits compared to other parents and experience more gendered access to parental leave, highlighting the need for policies specifically addressing recent migrants' needs

Milewski, Nadja & Uta Brehm. Parental leave policies, work (re)entry, and second birth: Do differences between migrants and non-migrants in Germany increase?

- First-generation migrant mothers in Germany show different patterns in transitioning back to work or having a second child compared to non-migrants, with smaller gaps observed among migrant descendants than first-generation migrants
- Recent policy changes have widened the gap between migrants and non-migrants in economic integration, as work incentives affect non-migrants more than migrants

ECEC

Eremenko, Tatiana & Anne Unterreiner. Access to formal childcare among families of newly arrived migrants from non-EU countries in France.

- Newly arrived third-country nationals in France have lower early childhood education and care (ECEC) enrollment rates for children under 3 compared to the general population
- This gap stems from migrants' disadvantaged socioeconomic position (lower employment and income) and residence in neighborhoods with fewer public childcare services

Mussino, Eleonora & Livia Ortensi. Childcare in Italy among migrants and natives: who uses which type and why?

- Migrant mothers in Italy use and need formal childcare less than native-born mothers, but when they do use care, they rely more heavily on formal daycare rather than informal arrangements
- Differences between migrant and native mothers are explained by socioeconomic factors like labor market attachment, with structural barriers affecting migrants and economic barriers affecting natives

Maes, Julie, Karel Neels, Naomi Biegel & Jonas Wood. Uptake of formal childcare among second generation and native mothers in Belgium: can increasing local childcare availability narrow migrant-native gaps?

- Expansion of local childcare availability in Belgium (2010-2014) increased formal childcare use among Southern European and Turkish origin mothers, but persistent gaps with native mothers remained
- Only mothers of Maghreb origin showed a slight reduction in the migrant-native uptake gap, suggesting differential impacts of childcare expansion across migrant groups

Trappolini, Eleonora, Laura Terzera, Stefania M. L. Rimoldi & Elisa Barbiano Di Belgiojoso. Informal childcare arrangements: a comparison between Italians and migrants.

- Migrants in Italy have lower informal childcare needs compared to Italians and use different arrangements, with Italians primarily relying on grandparental support regardless of children's ages
- When migrants do use informal childcare, they mainly rely on other relatives and non-relatives rather than grandparents, though familial solutions remain their preferred option

Concluding Findings:

- Family policy research has largely overlooked migrants and their descendants, despite significant variations in how these groups access and benefit from family policies across Western European countries like Belgium, France, Germany, and Italy.
- First-generation migrants face greater disadvantages in accessing family policies compared to their descendants, with factors like age at arrival and duration of stay playing crucial roles in integration outcomes and policy participation.
- A clear distinction exists between EU migrants and third-country nationals in policy access, with non-EU migrants (often from Muslim-majority countries) facing greater barriers to family policy benefits like childcare and parental leave
- Successful migrant integration depends on both migrant efforts and host society conditions, with marginalized groups (especially from Maghrebian countries) showing delayed uptake of expanded childcare services even when coverage increases
- The research reveals substantial disparities between ethnic minorities and majority populations in family policy eligibility and usage, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to ensure equal social rights and opportunities in an increasingly diverse Europe.

