



Migration in Portugal



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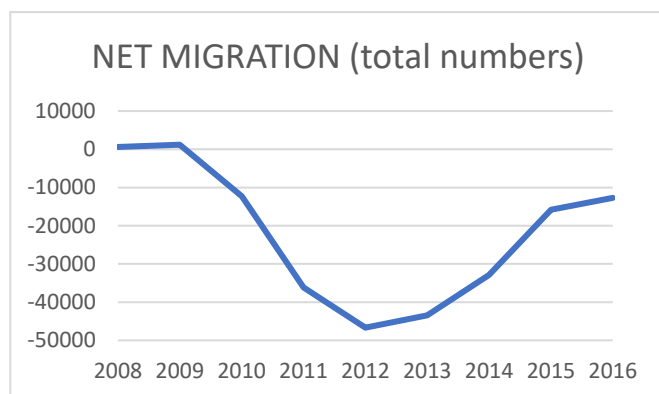


INDEX

- 0. Introduction**
- 1. International Migrant Stock**
 - 1.1 Sex
 - 1.2 Country of Origin
 - 1.3 Stock of Refugees
- 2. International Immigration Flows**
 - 2.1 Sex and Age
 - 2.2 Country of Birth
 - 2.3 Channels of Entrance
- 3. Assimilation in the Labour Market**
 - 3.1 Employment Rate
 - 3.2 Unemployment Rate
- 4. Integration Policies**
 - 4.1 Labour Market
 - 4.2 Education
 - 4.3 Family Reunification
 - 4.4 Discrimination
- 5. Conclusion**

0. Introduction

Portugal has been a recent destination country for migration: immigration flows have been growing since the 1990s (especially from Brazil), but over-all it's always been an origin country for emigrants, with emigration flows increasing especially since the economic crisis of 2007 (ever since 2/3 of Portuguese emigrated to other EU countries, and 1/3 to Brazil).



As we can see from figure 1, ever since 2009 the total numbers of Net Migration clearly show that the number of Portuguese exiting the country is higher than that of foreigners entering it.

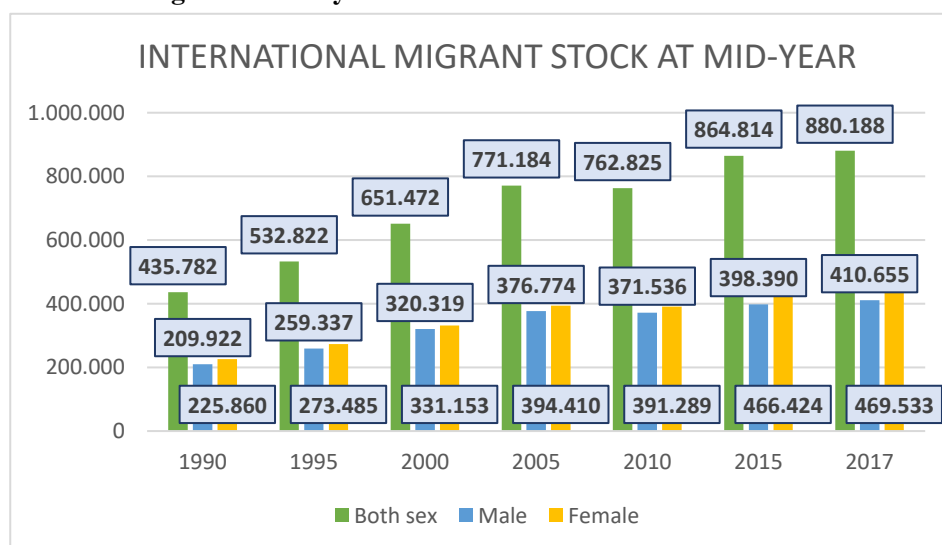
Figure 1 - Source: EUROSTAT, Emigration by age and sex (migr_emi2) and immigration by age and sex (migr_imm8), accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

1. International Migrant Stock

First of all, we looked at the number of migrants currently present in Portugal: in 2017, 880.188 immigrants were counted in the country, representing 8,52% of the total population of 10.33 million¹.

With data collected from UN Population Division (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) we looked at the migrant stock at mid-year, accounting for their sex, in a time span of 27 years (1990 – 2017). The estimates are based on official statistics on the foreign-born and foreign population.

1.1. Immigrant Stock by Sex



Dep. of Economic and Social Affairs, accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

As we can see in Figure 2, the number of migrants in Portugal has always grown, with the exception of the period 2005 - 2010 (when the economic crisis hit). In addition, we can point out that generally female migration is higher than the male one.

Figure 2 - UN Population Division,

¹ <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/portugal-population/>

1.2. Immigrant Stock by Country of Origin

Through the *International Migrant stock: The 2017 revision*, we chose to focus on the immigrant stock at mid-year in the same time-span previously used (1990 – 2017), this time looking at the country of origin, and collecting data of the countries that provide the highest number of migrants.

We can underline how the major countries of origin of the migrants in Portugal are located in Sub-Saharan Africa (Angola and Mozambique). As we can see from *figure 3*, migrants from Brazil are increasing ever since 2005, when 91,641 people arrived. This is important to note, because Brazil has historically been a destination country for the Portuguese, not the other way around. An interesting case is the Ukraine one: from 2000 to 2005 Ukraine migrant stock started to increase rapidly, due to the use of Schengen visa to enter.

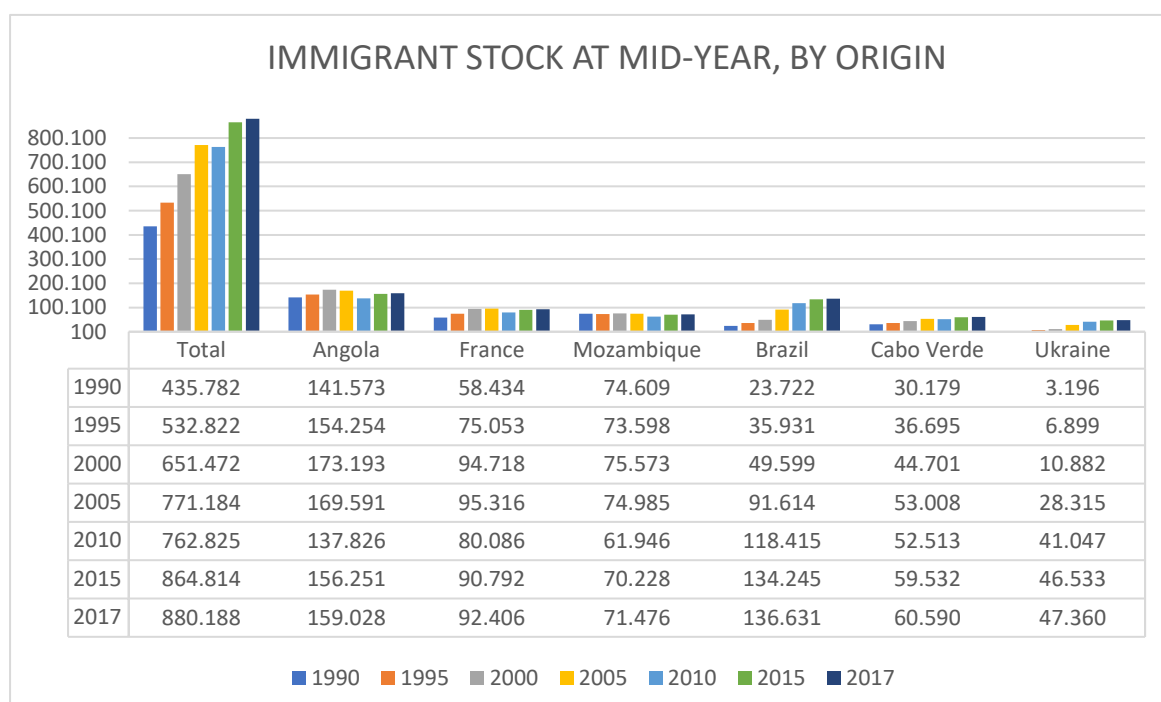
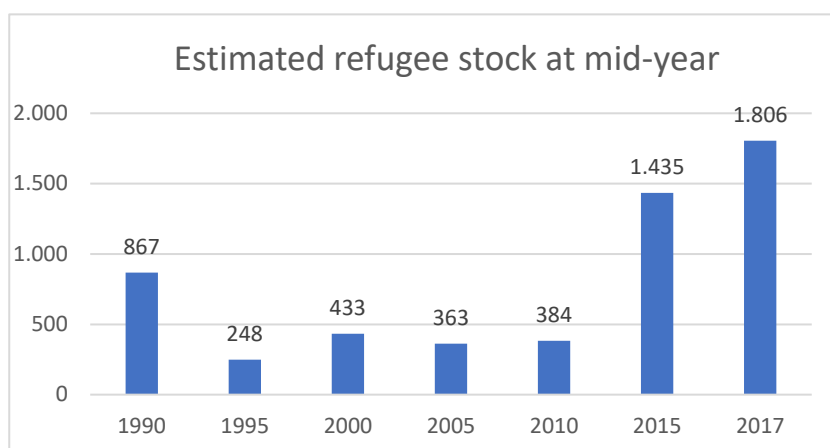


Figure 3 - UN Population Division, Dep. of Economics and Social Affairs, accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

Despite that, from 2010 we can see how the stock increased but less than the previous period, due to the crisis starting in 2008. From 2015 until now migrant stock from Ukraine is stable due to the acquisition of Portuguese nationality by many Ukrainian citizens².

² M. L. Fonseca, *A Comunidade Ucrainiana em Portugal*, Centro de Estudos Geográficos, Instituto de Geografia e Ordenamento do Território, Universidade de Lisboa, 26.06.2014

1.3. Stock of Refugees



In addition, we looked at the estimated refugee stock, including asylum seekers (both sex) to better understand how the refugees increase from 2010, 384 people, to 1,806 people in 2017.

Figure 4 - UN Population division, Dep. of Economics and Social Affairs, accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

2. International Immigration Flows

With data collected from the EUROSTAT database (availability from 2008), we looked into the composition of migration INFLOWS. We searched for the number of migrants that each year entered the country and accounted for different variables: sex, cross-sectioned with age and origins (country of birth, by broad groups), to get a better understanding of the inflows' composition. Then, through the OECD database, we also collected data on the channels of entrance of the migrants.

2.1. Sex and Age

First, we can see (figure 5) that in 2008 a total of 20,918 people entered Portugal, while in the following years until 2012 the number of migrants coming in each year declined. In 2012, only 5,280 people entered Portugal, but after that the number of yearly entrances has increased again until 2016 (year in which 25,561 people arrived in the country).

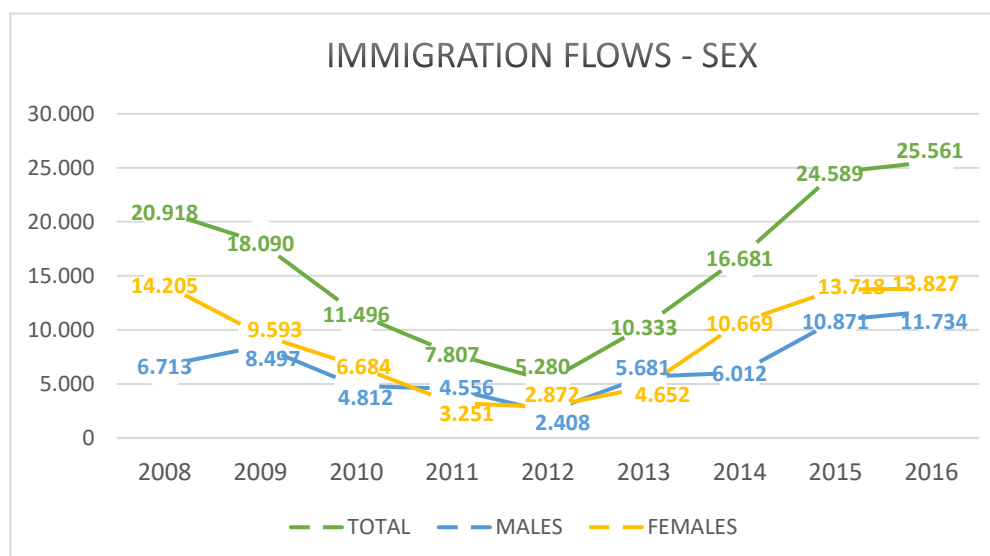


Figure 5 - Source: EUROSTAT, Immigration by age and sex (migr_imm8), accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

Moreover, accordingly to what we found by looking at the immigrant stock, it's visible that the number of female migrants has always been higher than that of males: in 2016, for example, 2 thousand more women entered the country compared to men.

We then divided the total in three age groups: migrants with less than 15 years of age; migrants between the age of 15 and 64; migrants who are older than 65. In general numbers, most of the immigrants in Portugal belong to the second group (20.569 in 2016, representing 80% of all immigrants), while the lesser share belongs to the last one.

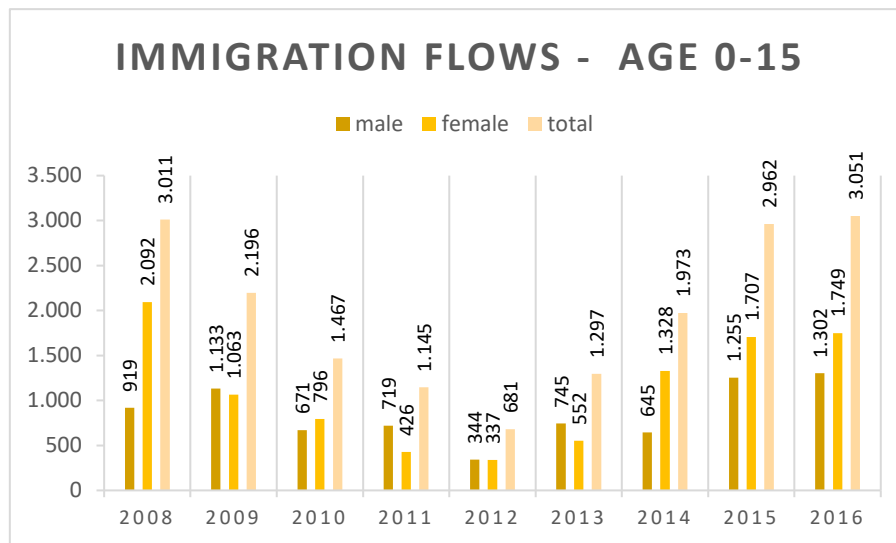


Figure 6 - Source: EUROSTAT, Immigration by age and sex (migr_imm8), accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

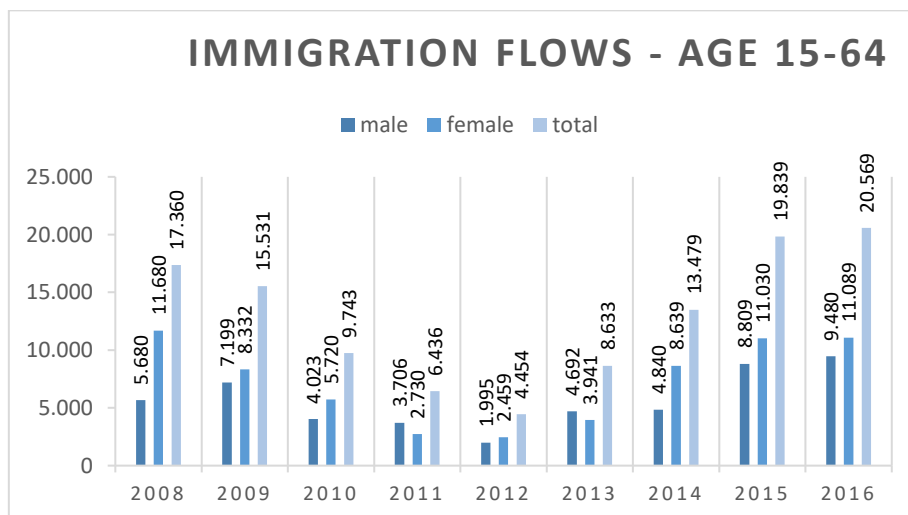


Figure 7 - Source: EUROSTAT Immigration by age and sex (migr_imm8), accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

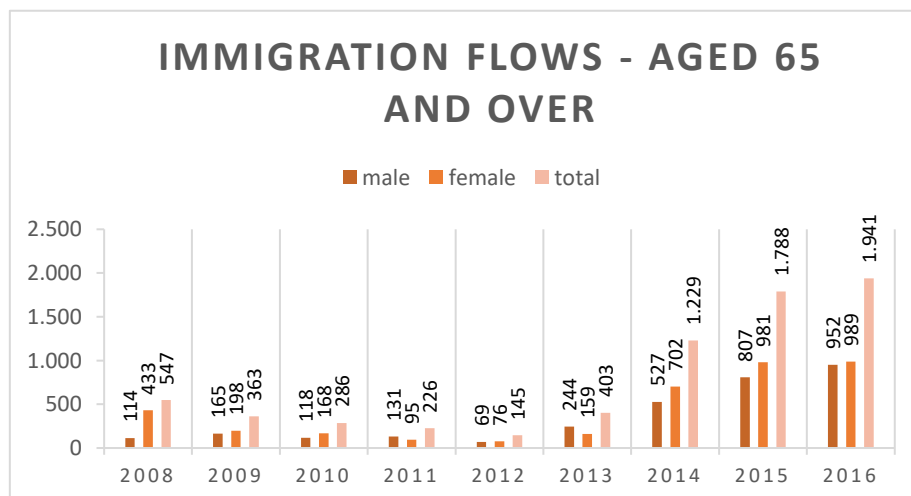


Figure 8 - Source: EUROSTAT, Immigration by age and sex (migr_imm8), accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

Figure 6, figure 7, and figure 8 all show – as the general trend – that migration as started increasing again after 2012, and the number of immigrants aged 15-64 has increased at a higher rate: between 2014 and 2015 – for instance – more than 6 thousand more people came in. As for the other two groups, the numbers weren't that different (the aged 0-15 increasing of around 1000 individuals; those aged 65 and over of around 500).

2.2. Country of Birth

As for the origin of migrants, we decided to focus on countries of birth collected in three broad groups: Member States of the EU, Foreign Countries, and Unknown origins.

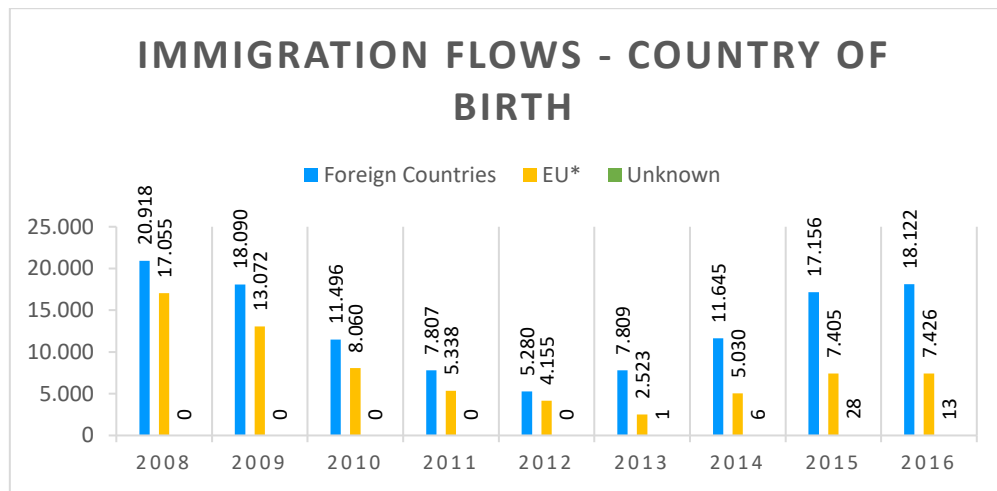


Figure 9 - Source: EUROSTAT, Immigration by age group, sex and country of birth (migr_imm3ctb), *Croatia included from 2013, accessed 27 April 2018, elaborated

The results (figure 9) are consistent with the data collected on the stock and show that the majority of immigrants comes from foreign states (thus meaning from outside of the EU) especially since 2013.

2.3. Channels of Entrance

Through the OECD database (2001-2014), we gathered data on the different channel of entrance for migrants in Portugal: work, free movement, family reunification, humanitarian reasons and other. During this 13 years, migrants entered Portugal mostly for work, family reunification, and through free movement (figure 10). In Portugal from 2001 to 2014 the most important inflows are work, free movements and family reasons with these following data. The number of permanent immigrants for working reasons was steady from 2001 to 2007 and increased up to the highest peak of 24.667 in 2008. Free movements reasons were steady from 2001 to 2006 and reached the highest peak of 22.962 in 2007. Family reasons began to increase from 2006 to 2014 and the highest peak was achieved in 2008 of 24.332 million of permanent immigrants. Instead, humanitarian and other reasons have lower numbers than the first three main reasons; humanitarian reasons had the highest peak of 135 in 2013 and about other reasons, the highest peak of 2.166 was achieved in 2008.

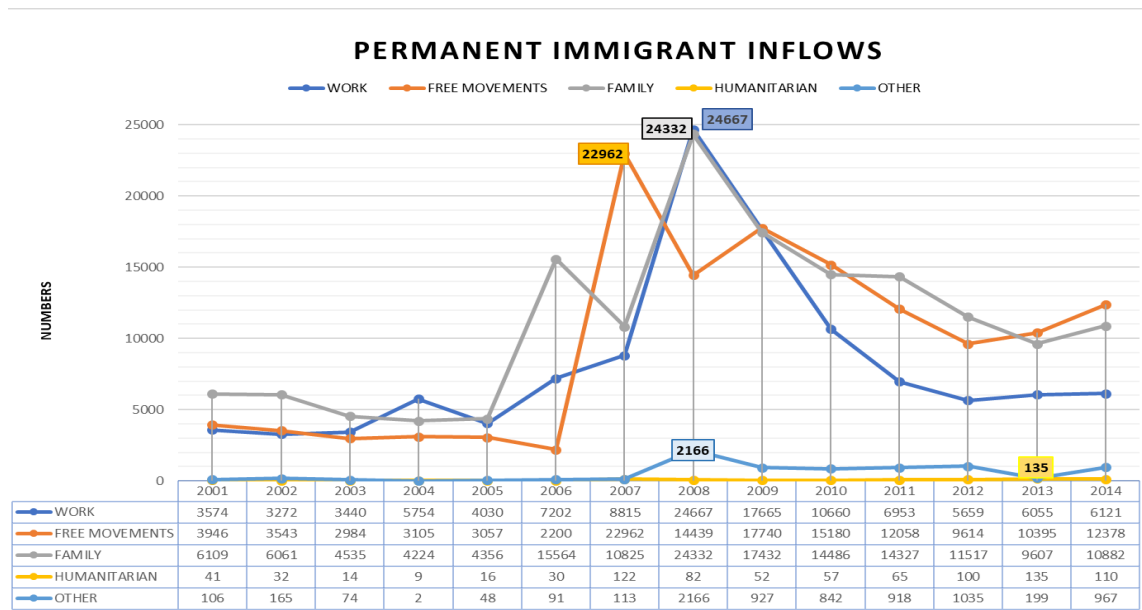


Figure 10 - Source: OECD International Migration Statistics, accessed on 27 April 2018, elaborated

3. Assimilation in the Labour Market

Having a picture of the composition of migratory flows in Portugal, we then gathered data from the OECD database on the assimilation of migrants in the economy, specifically on their employment and unemployment rates compared to those of natives (rates that include active and inactive persons aged 15-64 of the total foreign-born and native-born population; labour force includes the sum of employed and unemployed between 15 and 64 years old). The data extrapolated for this section all cover the years from 2001 to 2016.

3.1. Employment Rate

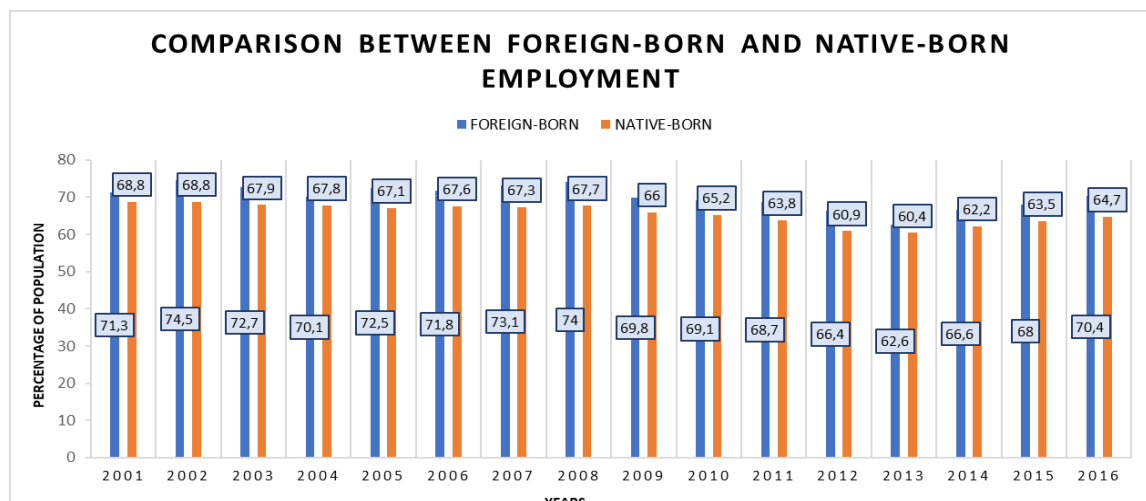


Figure 11 - Source: OECD Employment and unemployment rates by gender and place of birth, accessed on 27 April 2018, elaborated

Both data samples have similar results from 2009 to 2015 (Figure 11) but the employment situation of foreign-born is better than that of natives, if we look at the whole population. The data changes concerning the labour force.

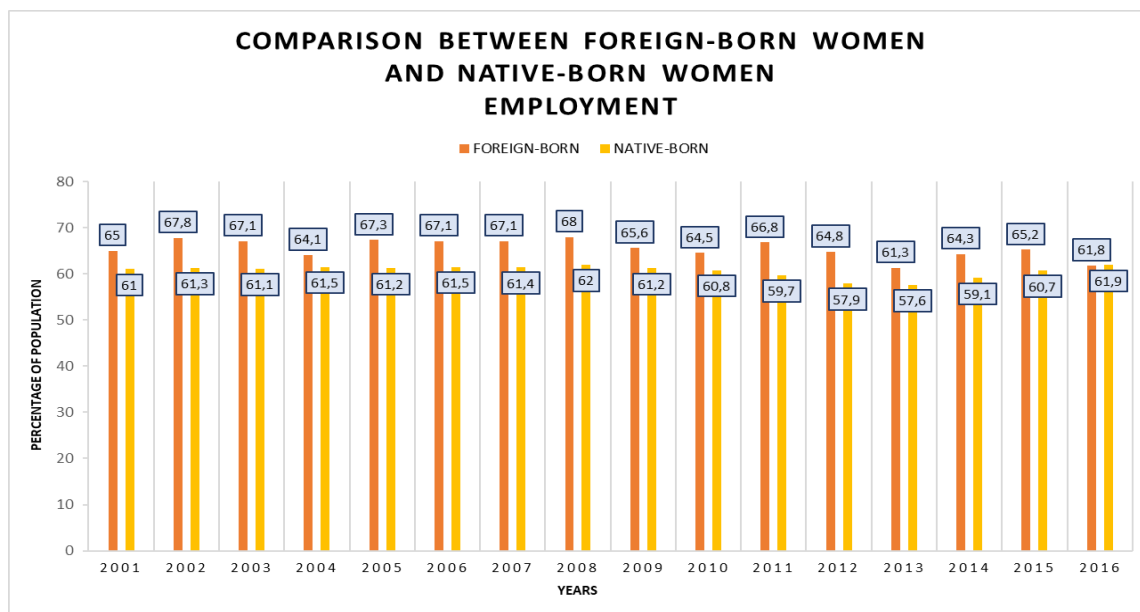


Figure 11.1 - Source: OECD Employment and unemployment rates by gender and place of birth, accessed on 27 April 2018, elaborated

The employment situation of foreign-born women and native women is very different (*Figure 11.1*). Immigrant women are more than natives one, in particular 66,8 points of percentage in 2011 and 64,8 points in 2012, compared to 59,7 points of percentage in 2011 and 57 points in 2012 of natives. Anyway, in 2016 the employment situation between both data samples is very similar; in fact, the graph shows 1 point of percentage of gap between them, respectively 61,8 points of percentage of foreign-born and 61,9 points of natives.

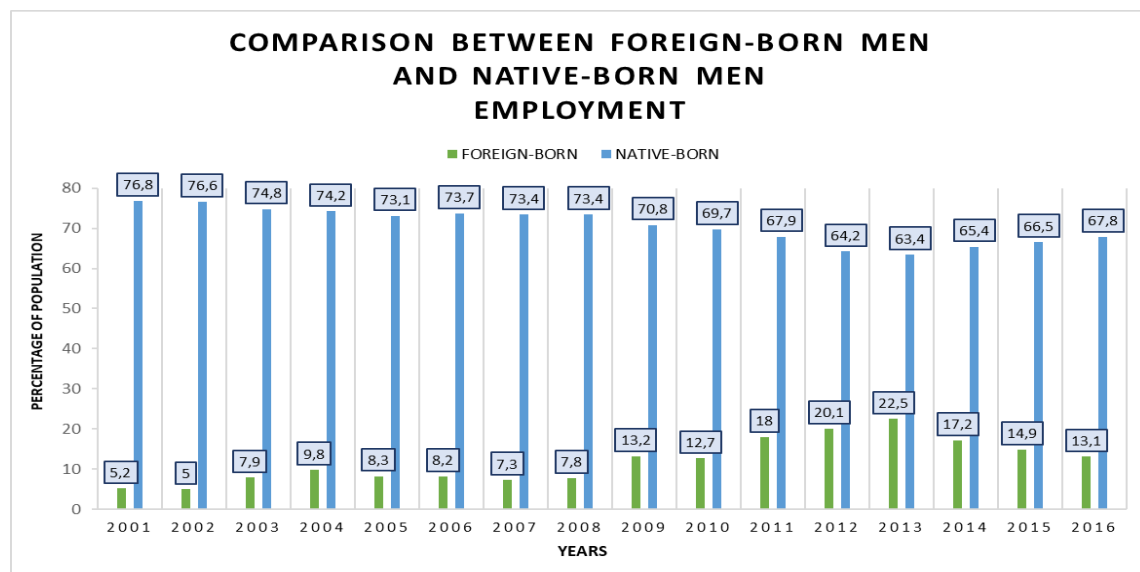


Figure 11.2 - Source: OECD Employment and unemployment rates by gender and place of birth, accessed on 27 April 2018, elaborated

The employment situation of foreign-born men and native men is the opposite compared to the previous data about women. Immigrants employment level is absolutely lower than that of natives and *figure 11.2* shows a situation of large difference between the two data samples. The employment level of foreign-born men reached its peak of 22,5 points in 2013, where the percentage of natives decreased from 64,2 points in 2012 to 63,4 points in 2013. There is a surprising difference between the two data samples in 2001 because the percentage of native's employment reached its peak of 76,8 points, opposite to the 5,2 points of the immigrants'.

3.2. Unemployment Rate

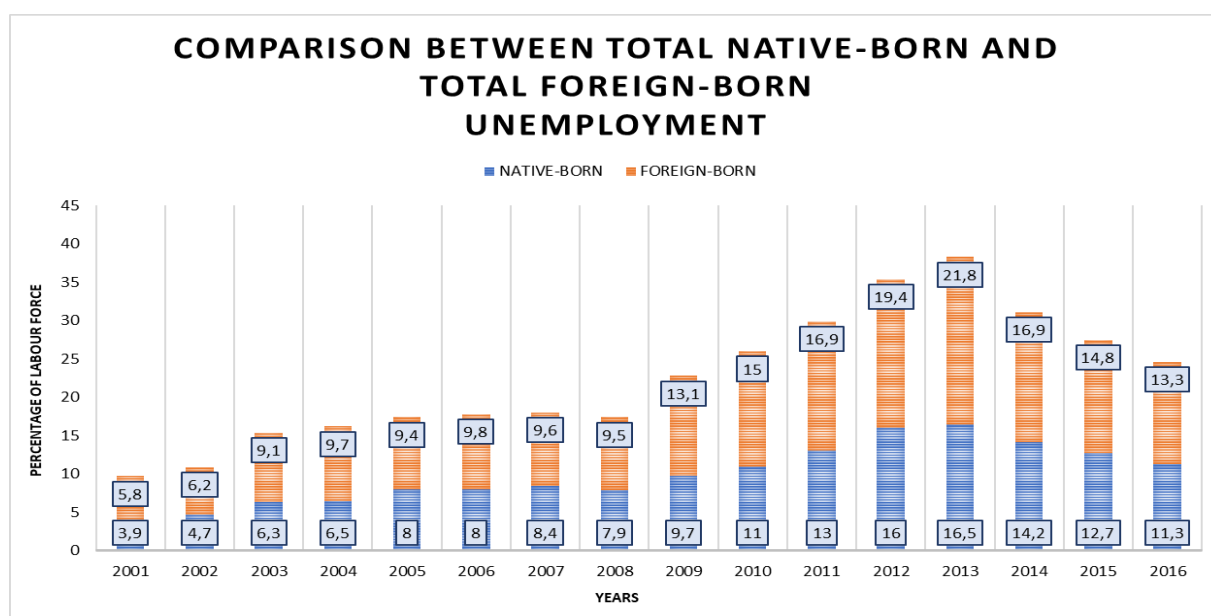


Figure 12 - Source: OECD Employment and unemployment rates by gender and place of birth, accessed on 27 April 2018, elaborated

We can see a comparison between the percentages of unemployment of the foreign-born and natives, where the unemployed include persons aged 15-64 in the foreign-born and native labour force, i.e. the sum of employed and unemployed. *Figure 12* shows an evident and equal increase of both data samples from 2001 to 2013; anyway, the percentage of unemployment of immigrants is higher than that of natives. So, considering the labour force the data indicate that natives are less unemployed than foreigners.



Figure 12.1 - Source: OECD Employment and unemployment rates by gender and place of birth, accessed on 27 April 2018, elaborated

From 2001 to 2007 the percentages of unemployment of both data samples increased and decreased with the same trend, where the unemployment of immigrants is more than that of natives (*figure 12.1*). Anyway, in 2008 both percentages of labour force decreased and increased again from 2009 up to 2013, where they reached the peak of

21 points of percentage for foreigners and 16,5 points for natives. At last, from 2014 to 2016 both percentages of labour force decreased again but native women continue to be less unemployed than immigrants one.

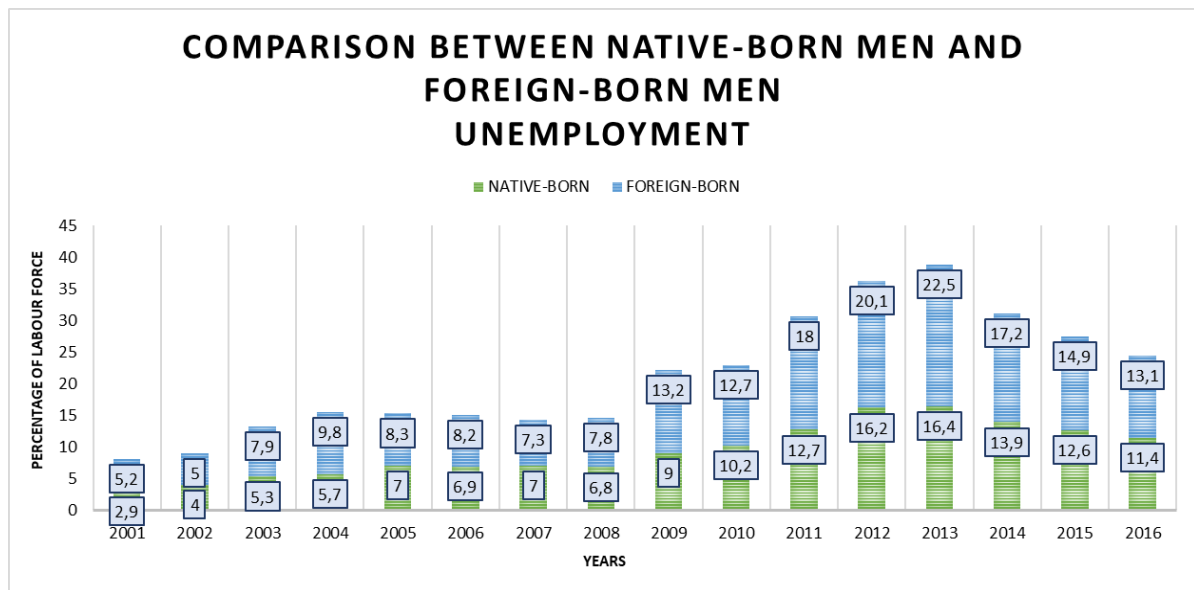


Figure 12.2 - Source: OECD Employment and unemployment rates by gender and place of birth, accessed on 27 April 2018, elaborated

The level of growth of the male labour force is similar to the female one; in both data samples, unemployment increased and decreased with the same trend from 2001 to 2013 (*figure 12.2*), and as in the female graph the peak was reached in 2013 with 22,5 points of percentage for immigrant men and 16,4 points for natives. So, foreign-born men are more unemployed than natives and, as we have seen on previous graphs about the share of employment in the total employed population (which includes active and inactive), the foreign-born men enjoy a lower employment rate than natives.

4. Integration Policies

Our last section focuses on integration policies implemented by the Portuguese government in dealing with immigrants. All the data for this section have been gathered from the MIPEX database, and refer to 2014, the last available year.

Portugal is considered a country in which integration is valued, considered a 3% of the population coming from non-EU countries. Its integration policies have been given a new overall focus after the crisis, and the new mobility has confirmed once more its openness towards integration of migrants.

Figure 13 shows the levels that immigrants' integration reached in all aspects of society, with the highest being in the fields of labour market mobility, family reunion, anti-discrimination, and access to nationality.

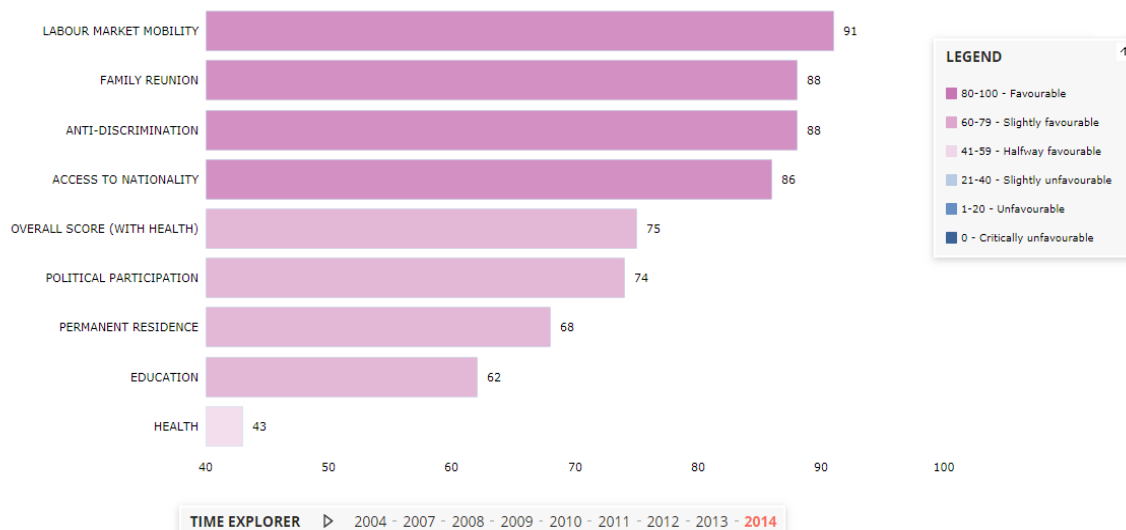


Figure 13 - Source: Mipex, accessed on 27 April 2018

4.1. Labour Market Mobility

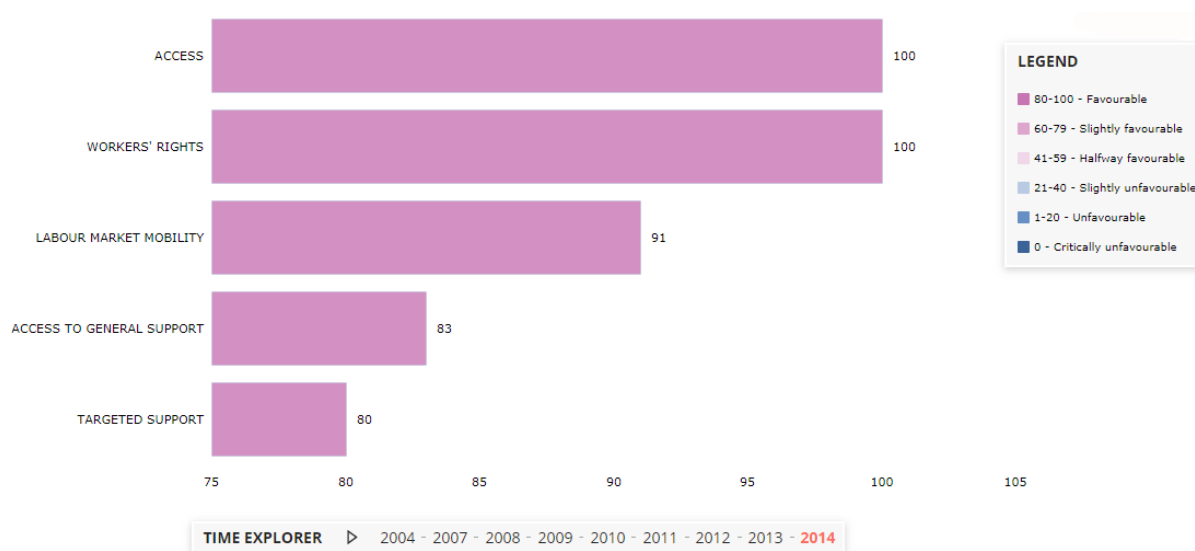


Figure 14 - Source: Mipex, accessed on 27 April 2018

Figure 14 shows the levels of integration in the labour market, specifically for what concerns access to the labour market, workers' rights, labour market mobility, access to general support and targeted support.

The highest levels of integration are reached in the fields of access, workers' rights and labour mobility where foreign-born workers and their families are granted the same opportunities to find and change jobs natives have and are entitled to equal working conditions and rights native workers enjoy.

4.2. Education

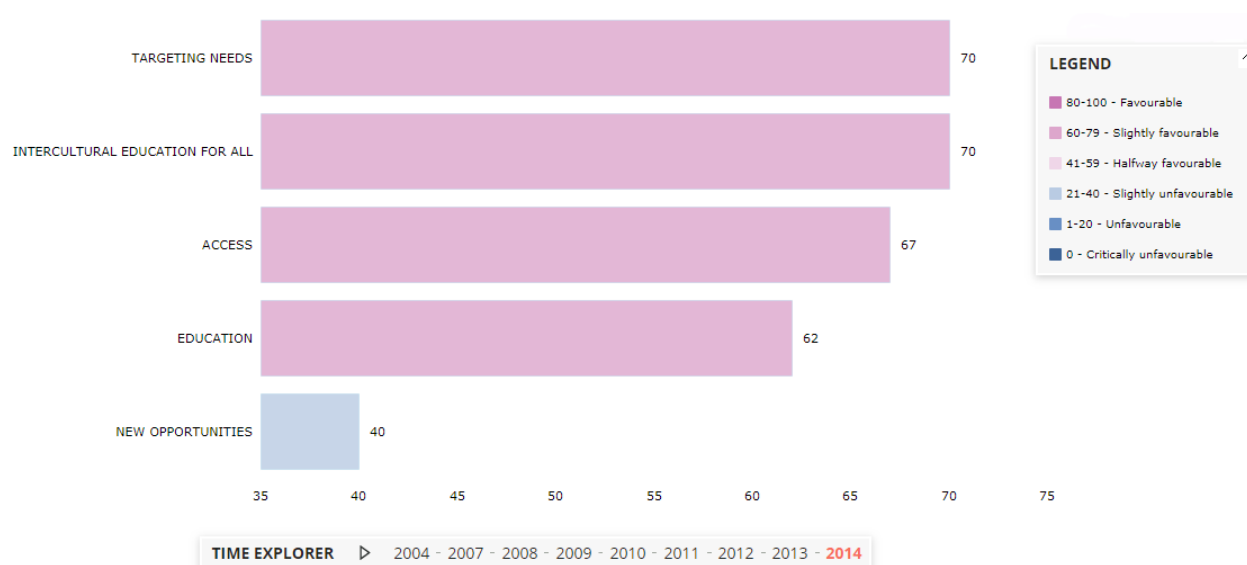


Figure 15 - Source: Mipex, accessed on 27 April 2018

Figure 15 shows the levels of integration reached in the field of education where access, intercultural education and the targeting of needs scored the highest levels of integration due to special policies made to support immigrant pupils' specific learning needs.

4.3. Family Reunification

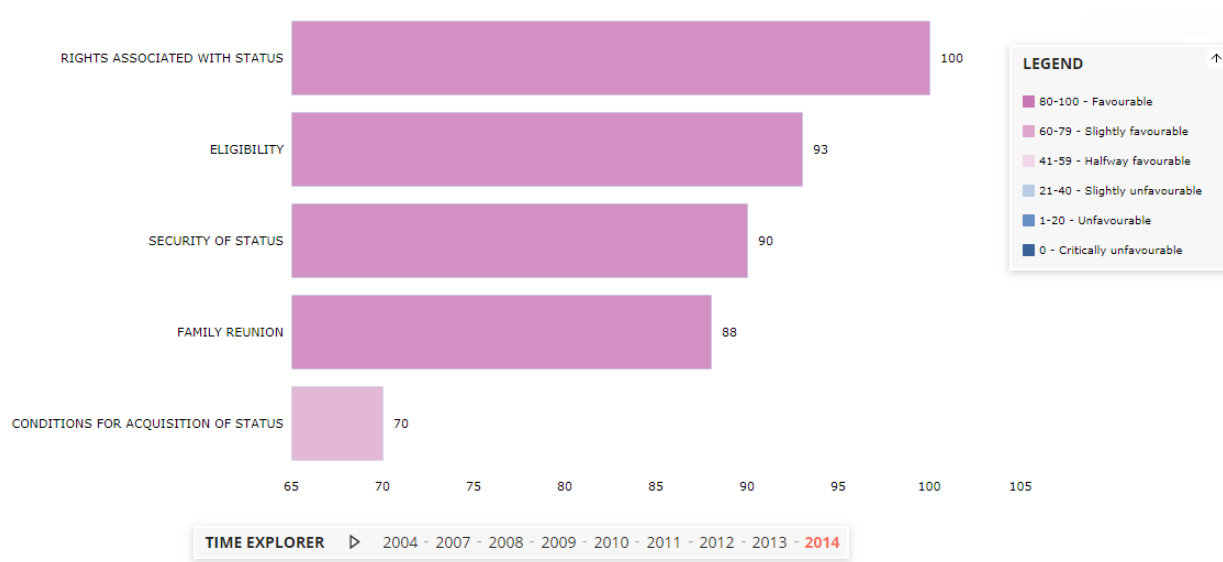


Figure 16 - Source: Mipex, accessed on 27 April 2018

Figure 16 shows the levels of integration reached in the policies targeting family reunion.

The rights associated with the status scored the highest levels of integration due to policies that grant reunited family members the same rights as their sponsor to access work and social benefits. The fields of eligibility, security of status and family reunion also reached high levels of integration.

4.4. Anti-Discrimination Policy

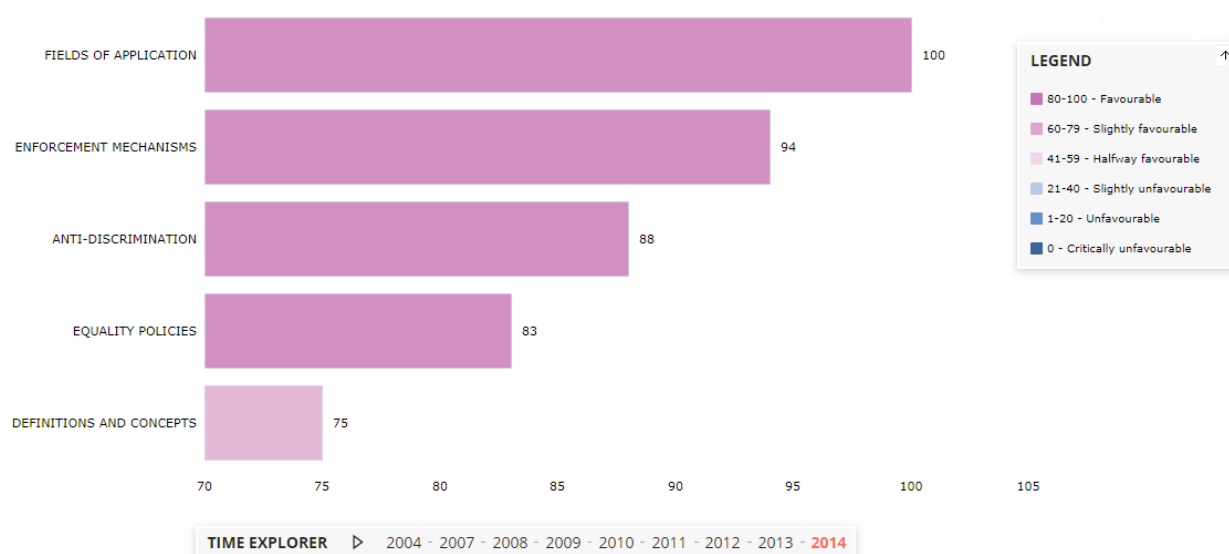


Figure 17 - Source: Mipex, accessed on 27 April 2018

Figure 17 shows Portugal's anti-discrimination laws, enforcement mechanisms and equality policies and as we can see the highest levels are reached by the enforcement mechanism and the scope of application due to the strong mechanism to enforce the law present in the country and the wide scope of anti-discrimination policies that do not allow discrimination against a person on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion or nationality.

5. Conclusion

To conclude, we found that Portugal is mainly a country of emigration, so a country of origin, but that migrants coming in have increased in the recent years – at least since 2013.

We found out that the majority of immigrants in Portugal are women, and that the most numerous group is that composed by individuals between the age of 15 to 64: this is consistent with the fact that most of the migrants that enter Portugal do so for work reasons.

Moreover, we found that – apart from Brazil that is unsurprisingly one major origin country – most of the migrants entering Portugal comes from Sub-Saharan Africa, with also the particular inclusion of Ukraine.

As for assimilation and integration, Portugal's scoring fairly well, with favourable policies towards immigrants and an overall fair labour market assimilation (considering the high unemployment rate at 24,6% of the labour force in 2016).