



Migration in Norway



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NORWAY'S HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON MIGRATION POLICIES

Norway has always carefully regulated migrants' admission in the country, in order to ensure social equality to both natives and non-natives. With a low population density, a robust and stable labor market, despite recent recession, and its commitment to humanitarian protection, Norway still offers great advantages for immigrants and refugees. Anyway at first it was not a destination country for immigrants rather an emigration one. In addition, today net migration flow is still negative.

In the 1960s, most immigrants came from its Nordic neighbors, these flows stemmed from a common labor market, established in the 1950s, between Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland.

In the late 1960's Norway began to accept a number of labor migrants from Morocco, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and particularly Pakistan. These guest workers, though expected to be temporary, remained in the country and were eventually followed by other migrants, including refugees and family reunification candidates. In 1975, on the wake of the threat of sudden immigration flows from developing countries, Norwegian government adopted an "immigration stop". The first legislation to restrict immigration. This approach, which was very similar to actions taken around Europe at the time, shifted migrant applications to other channels such as asylum, refugees and family reunification.

During the 1980's the country experienced a xenophobic tendency but the government kept the effort of guaranteeing equal treatment for both native population and migrants: foreigners were required to have visa to enter the country, but the law also admitted many exceptions. At the end, the legislation instituted a settlement permit, given to individuals with three continuous years of residency.

Norway's high levels of employment, social support and political participation help increasing immigrant's participation in society and shown how today the country policies concentrate on managing migration with a quality approach rather than concentrate on the quantity of admissions.

At last update of year 2018 immigrants residing in Norway are 746,662, while Norwegian born from at least one foreign parent are 169,964. The total amount constitutes 17, 3% of the country population.

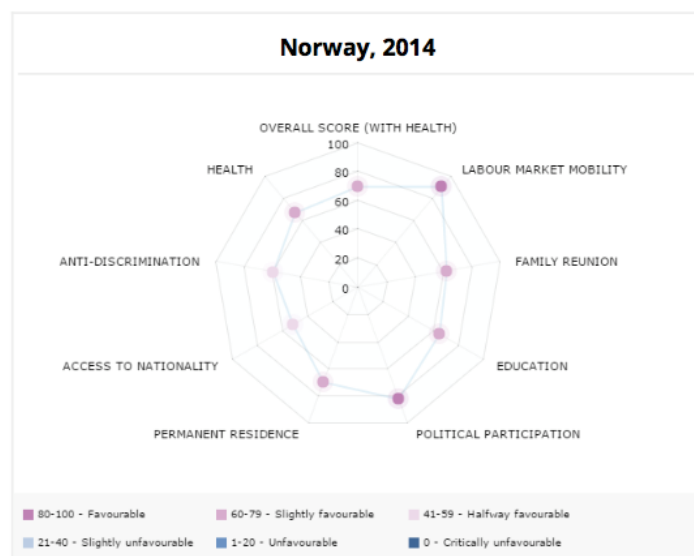
1. Introduction on Norway's Migration.

On the last MIPEX measure in 2014, Norway scored sixty-nine points and was fourth out of thirty-eight countries in the collective rank. The graph shows the contexts in which Norway is higher evaluated: the mobility of the labor market, the political participation of the immigrants on national issues, and the possibility of permanent residence.

Rank: 4 out of 38
MIPEX Score: 69

KEY FINDINGS

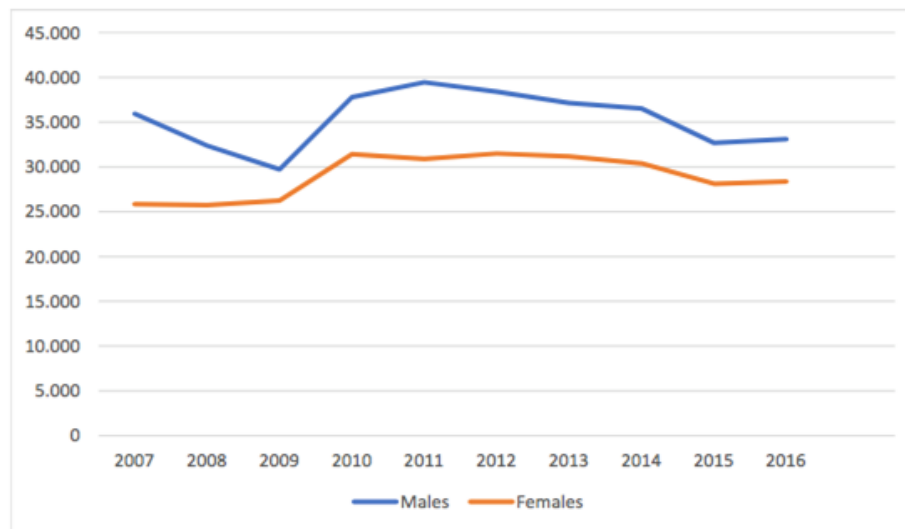
Labour Market Mobility:	90
Family Reunion:	63
Education:	65
Health:	67
Political Participation:	82
Permanent Residence:	70
Access To Nationality:	52
Anti-discrimination:	59



We decided to analyse immigration under various aspects. This phenomenon indeed offers different characteristics for what concerns i.e. gender- age specificities, labor market and humanitarian issues.

Graphic 1.1 Immigration by sex

Source: Eurostat, last update 16.03.2018 [migr_imm8]

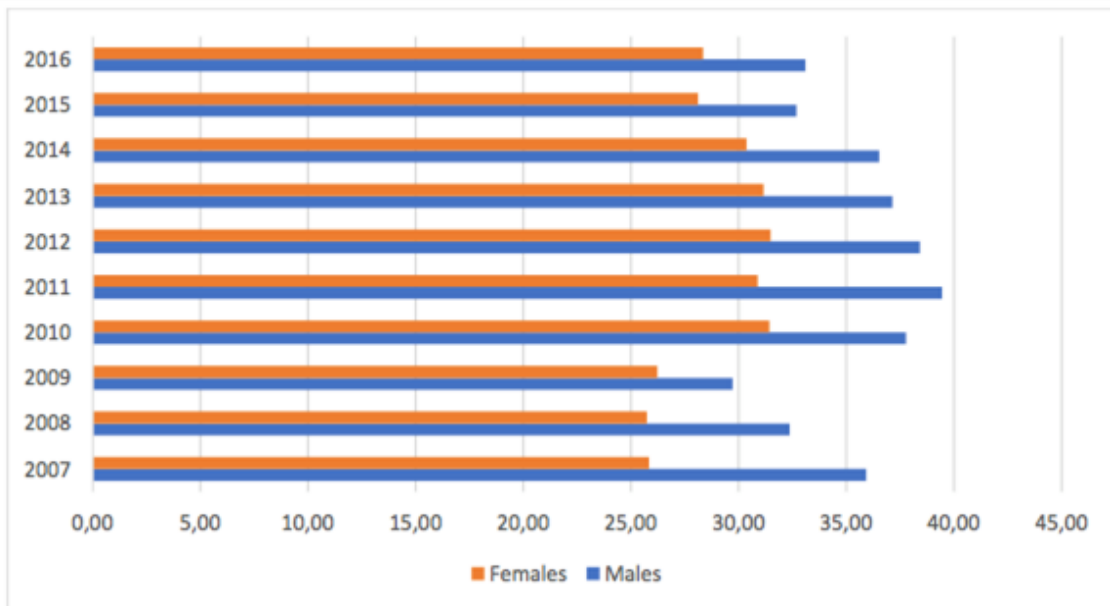


As we can see from the graph above, males and females flows between 2007 and 2016 had a similar trend. Males remained the major quantity on the total number, but both had a downfall around 2009. After which they began to increase again and remain more or less stable.

We can also make a comparison between males and females migrants by age and we still find differences analyzing immigrants' flows. As shown in the graph below males migrants tend to be definitely older than females. Furthermore, it is also interesting to notice that after 2011 the average age is decreasing. In this sense, it can have a positive, although only temporary, effect on the ageing population.

Graphic 1.2 Immigration by age

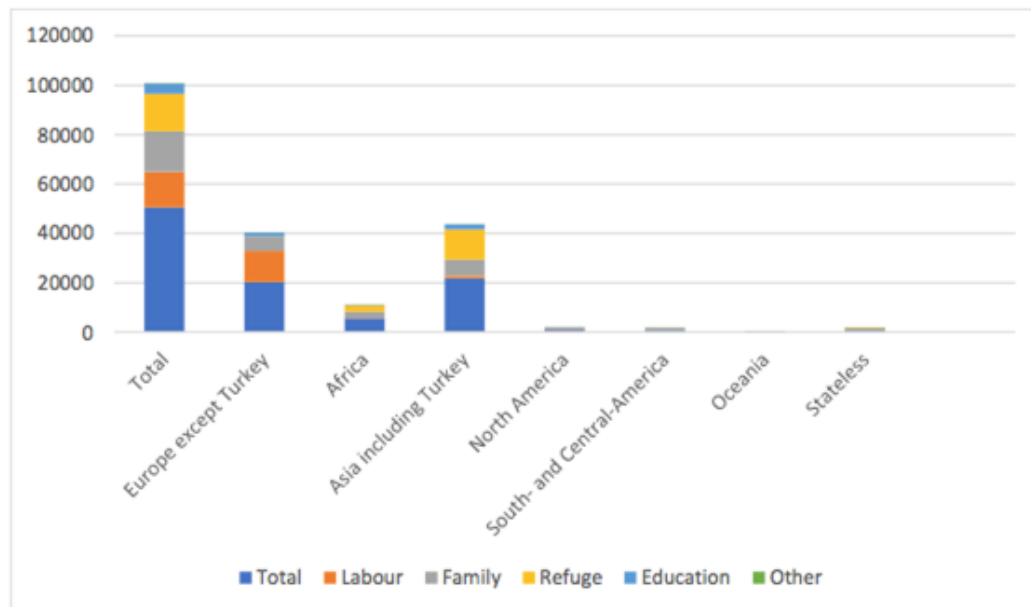
Source: Eurostat, last update 16.03.2018 [migr_imm8]



The graph below refers to year 2016 and it is interesting since it links reasons of migration with the citizenship of migrants. It helps to understand better the nature and the origin of the flows. For instance, most migrants coming from Turkey and MENA region, which is experiencing a challenging era of wars and conflict, are refugees and belong to the humanitarian field. This together with family reunion are by far the greater reasons of migration. On the contrary, inside EU borders most immigrants are moving for labor motivation and slightly for education. North-South and Central America migrants are a small part of the total amount, and almost all decided to move to Norway for family reunion reasons.

Graphic 1.3 Immigration by reasons for immigration and first citizenship

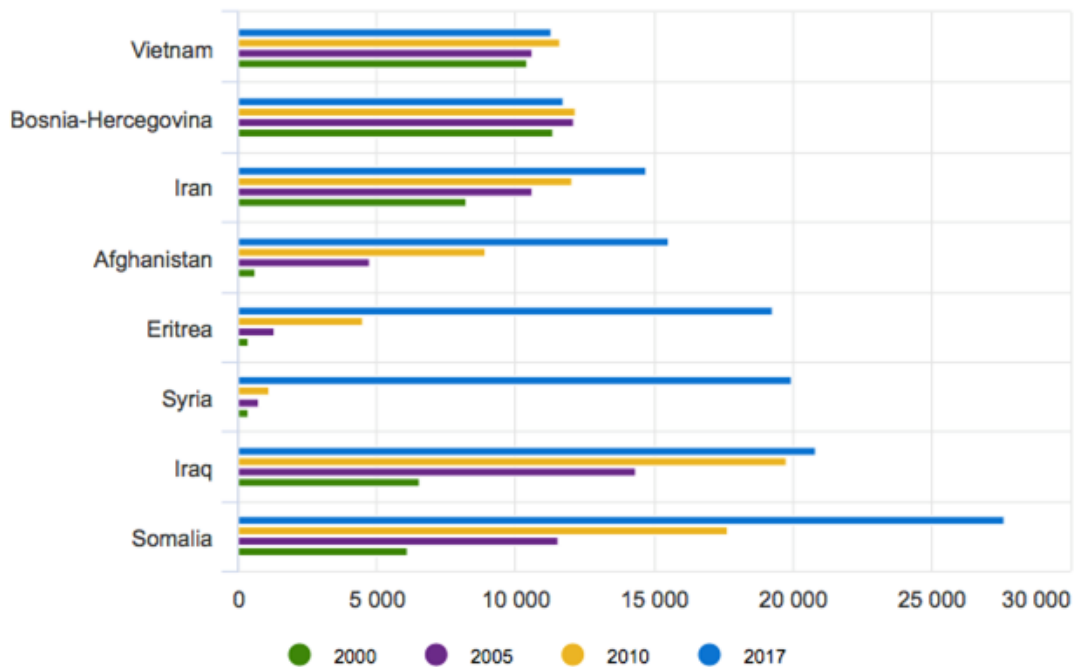
Source: Statistic Norway



217.200 persons with a refugee background were living in Norway on 1 January 2017. This corresponds to 30% of immigrants in Norway, and 4% of the total population.

Graphic 1.4 Immigration with a refugee background

Source: Statistics Norway

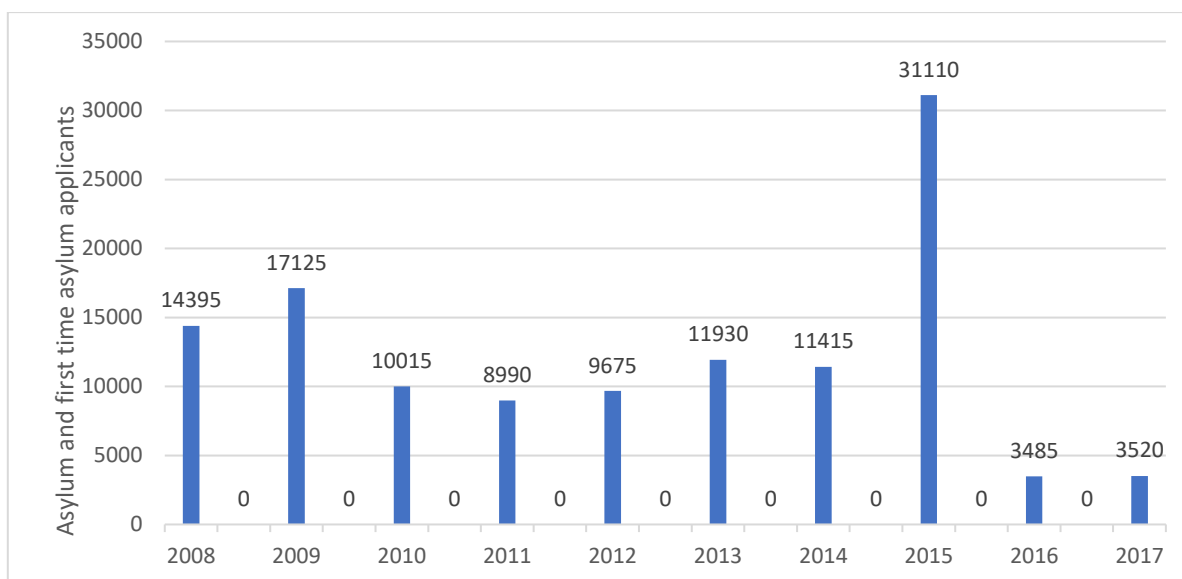


During 2016, the number of persons with a refugee background increased by 17 800. Persons with a Syrian background had the strongest growth. Syrians now make up the third largest group with a refugee background in Norway, and some Syrian asylum seekers are still waiting for settlement. Somalia remains the largest group of persons with a refugee background, with 27 600, followed by Iraq (20 800). Eritrea is the fourth largest group with 14 100 persons.

2. ASYLUM SEEKERS

Graphic 2.1 Asylum and first time asylum applicants

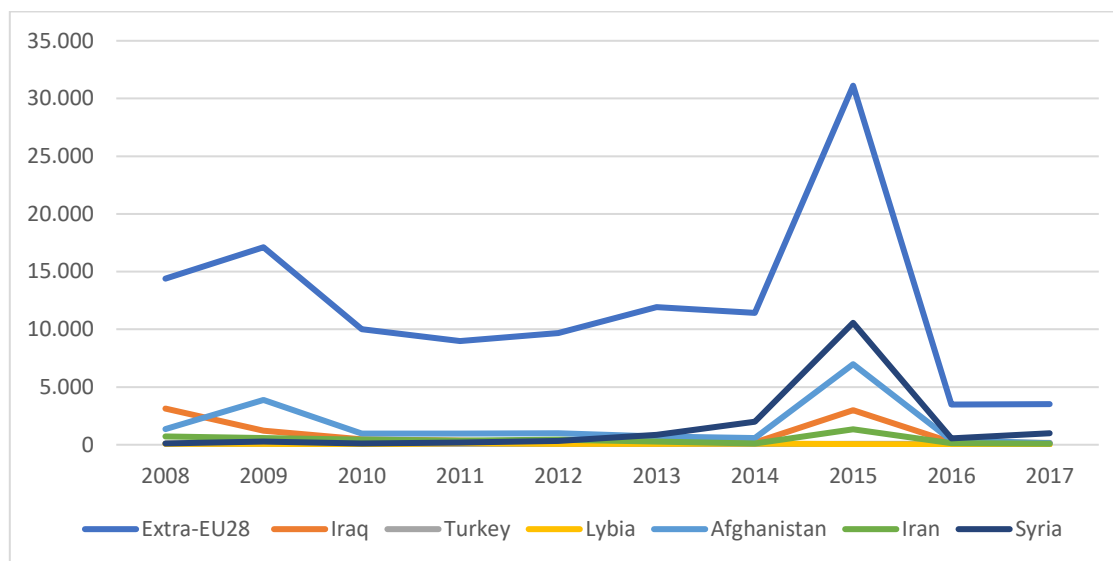
Source: Eurostat, last update 30.03.2018 [migr_asyappctza]



The Dublin Regulation (Regulation No. 604/2013) is a European Union law that determines the EU Member State responsible for examining an application for asylum seekers. Norway, which is formally not part of the EU, still implement the provision of the Dublin Regulation. In July 2017, the European Court of Justice upheld the Dublin Regulation declaring it still stands despite the high influx of 2015, giving EU member states the right to deport migrants to the first country of entry to the EU. This change is clearly visible in the above graph where asylum and first asylum applicants reached the peak in 2015 while it decreased the following years as result of the Dublin Regulation's amendment.

Graphic 2.2 Asylum applicants by citizenship

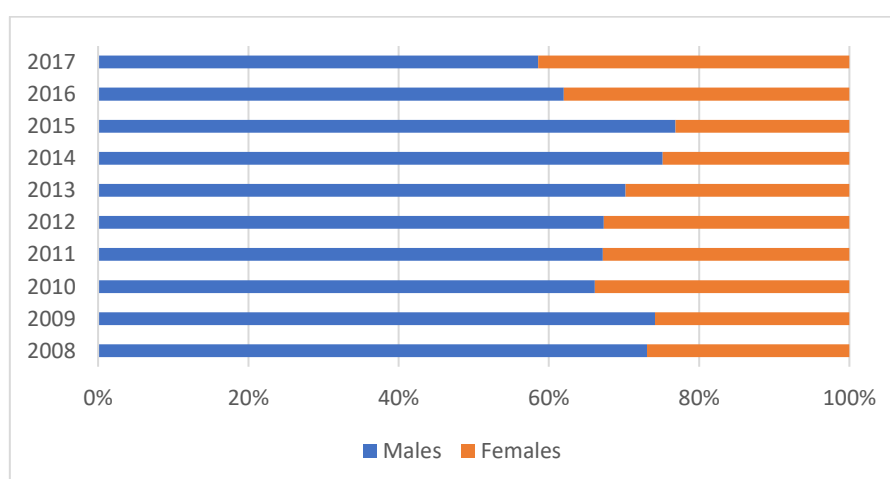
Source: Eurostat, last update 30.03.2018 [migr_asyappctza]



Asylum applications in Norway mainly came from Extra-EU 28. In particular, as showed by the graph, the major applications are from Middle Eastern countries. This could be explained by the conflictual situation that forces thousands of people to flee elsewhere. The peak of requests was in 2015 and then it decreased the following years.

Graphic 2.3 Asylum applicants by sex

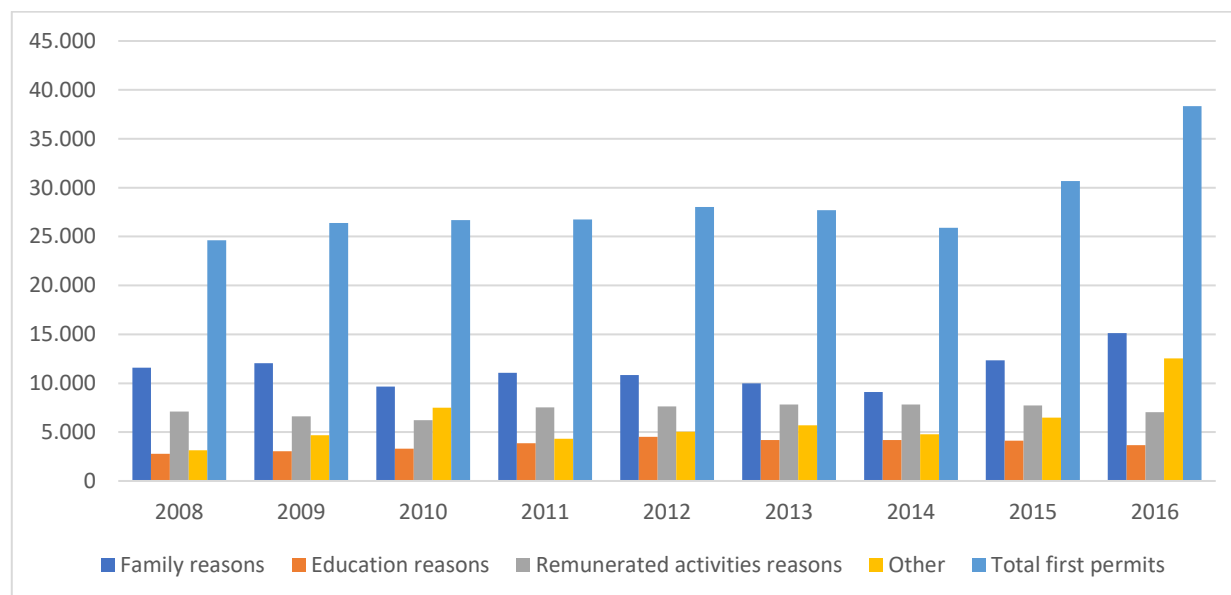
Source: Eurostat, last update 30.03.2018 [migr_asyappctza]



As the graph shows, there is a great gender difference in asylum applications. Men clearly outnumber women, with a peak reached in 2015.

Graphic 2.4 First permits by reason

Source: Eurostat, last update 30.04.2018 [migr_resfas]



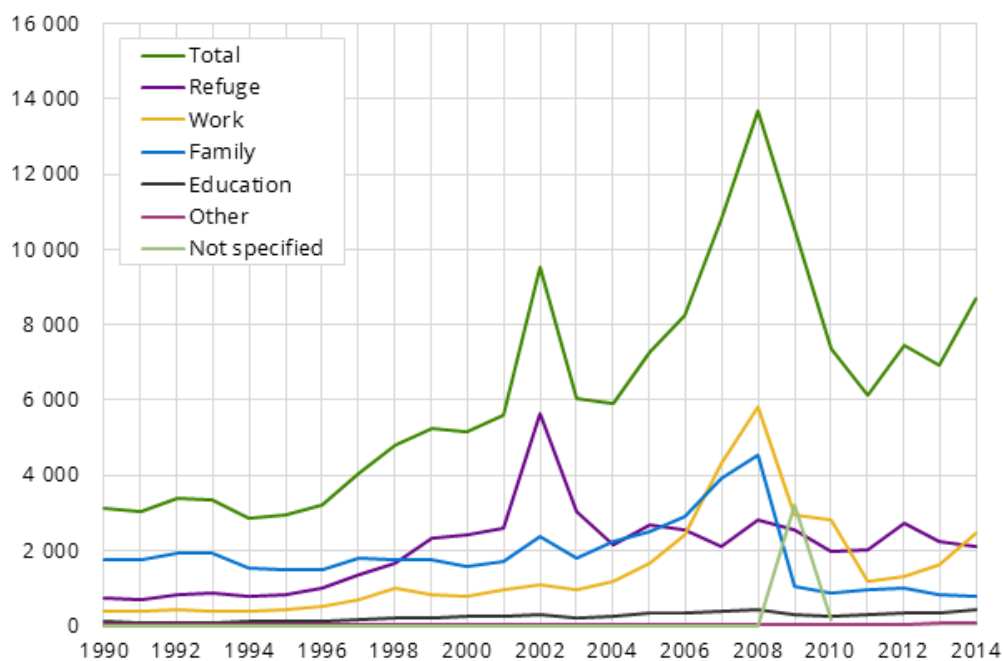
Residence permit means any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory. First permit means the residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. The main reason of first permit in Norway is family reunion. In the firsts, years of the study between 2008 and 2014 the demands of permit remained almost constant. On the contrary, it increased in the last two years of the time-period analysed and the highest number of demands of permit occurred in 2016.

3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Family reunification is, declared by the European Union, one of the main reasons for migration. The established procedure that lets a family member already residing legally in a European Union country to reunite with direct family members made the integration of third country national. Norway has its own family reunification procedure that modified over the time the characteristics of its migration flow. In the follow graphics, we will see a couple of these points to understand the effect of family reunification.

Graphic 3.1 Number of family immigrations by reference person's reason for immigration, where the reference person is an immigrant.

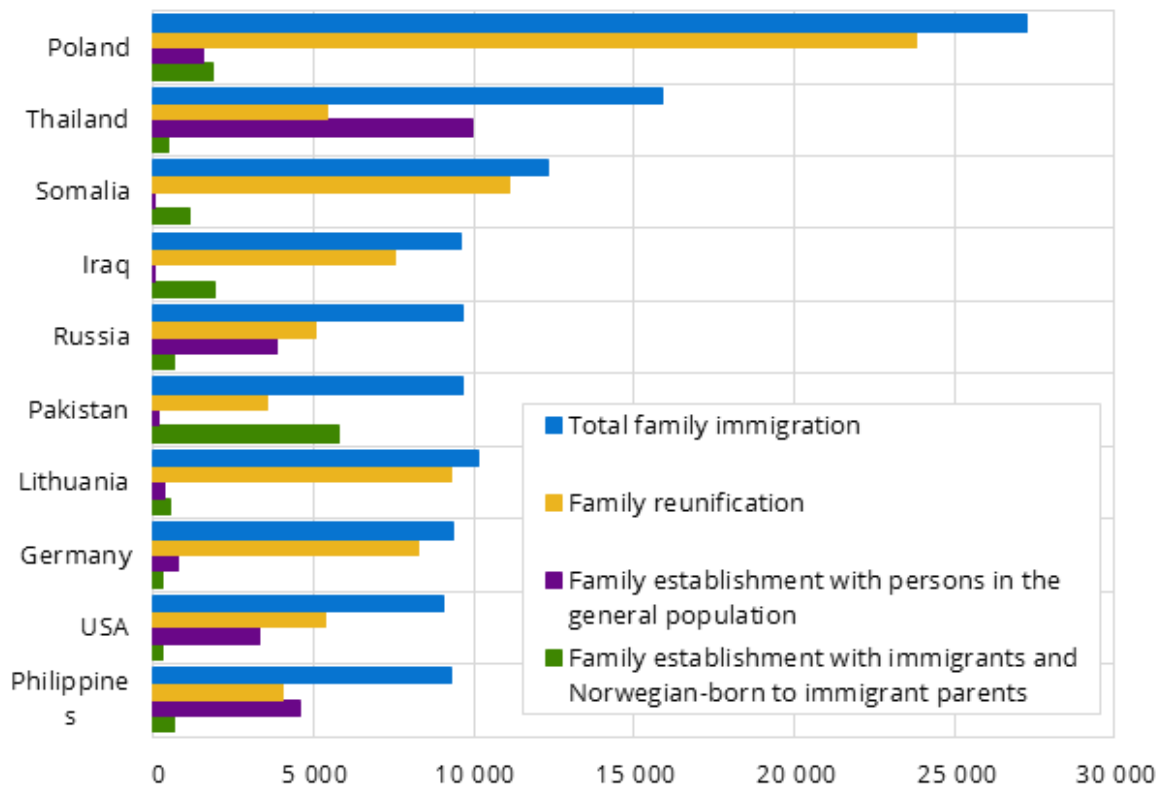
Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway



In this graphic, we can see that Family Reunification was the recurrent reason for immigration from the 1990 to 1998. We remark the situation given from 1998 with the Bosnian refugee flow and in 2002 with the Iraqi as the most representative ones. From 2003 to 2008, there is a spike in the family reunification digits mostly shadowed by the work permits given after the inclusion of the eastern countries in the European Union. After that, the numbers went down given by the relation between the reasons (a rise in the work and, again, the refugee ones). We consider another reason the inclusion of restrictions in 2010 by the hand of the new Immigration Act in Norway.

Graphic 3.2 Number of family immigrations by type of family immigration and citizenship, and the reference person's immigration background. 1990-2014

Source: Statistics Norway

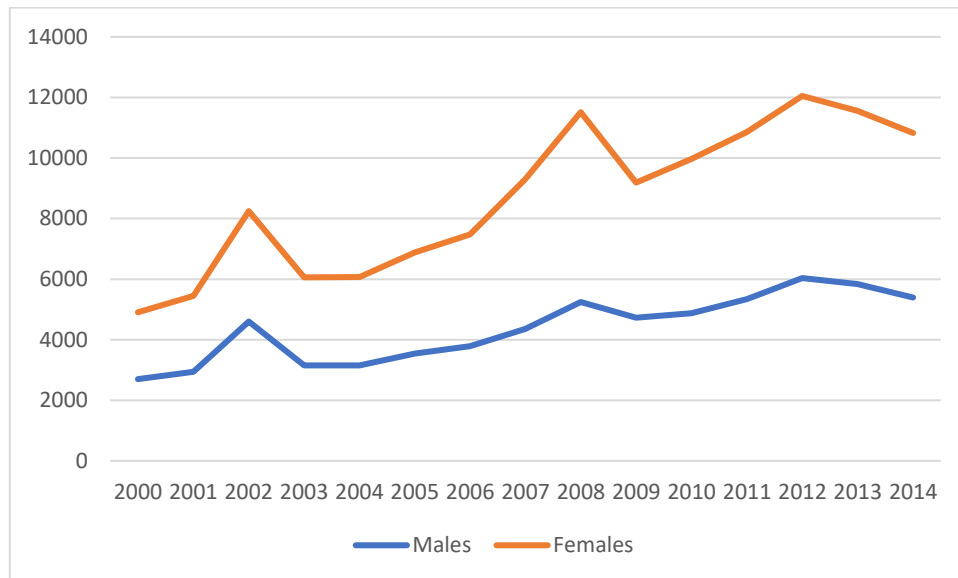


In this case, we can clearly see the top countries that followed the family immigration.

There are three important classifications: the first one is family reunification, as the one that describes the reunification of a family separated by distance. The second one, the establishment of the migrant with the general population. The third one is the unification of immigrants and Norwegian soil born with immigrant parents. This being said, Poland is the biggest nationality, with the family reunification as the main reason, we can find its reasons in the proximity of the two countries. Contrary to Thailand, where the family establishment is the dominant between the three. Finally, Somalia with the family reunification as the primary one, and almost non-existent family establishment.

Graphic 3.3 Gender based comparative of total Family immigration. 2000-2014. Absolute figures

Source: Statistics Norway

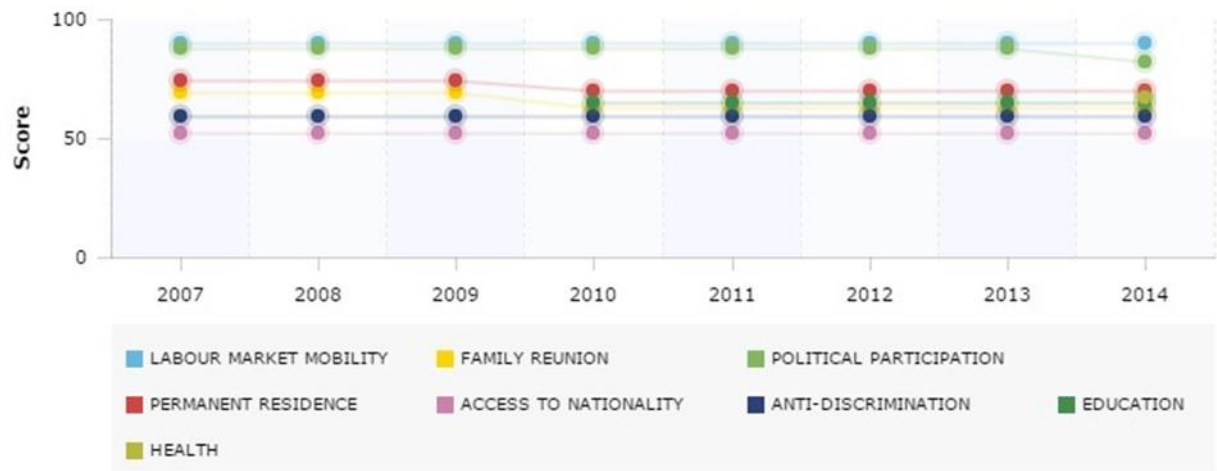


In this final graph, we can clearly see a predominance of women in this process. From 2000, considering the pikes on 2002 and 2008 based on global migration movements, the gap between both genders continued to raise.

4. WORKER MIGRANTS

Graphic 4.1 Norway from 2007 to 2014

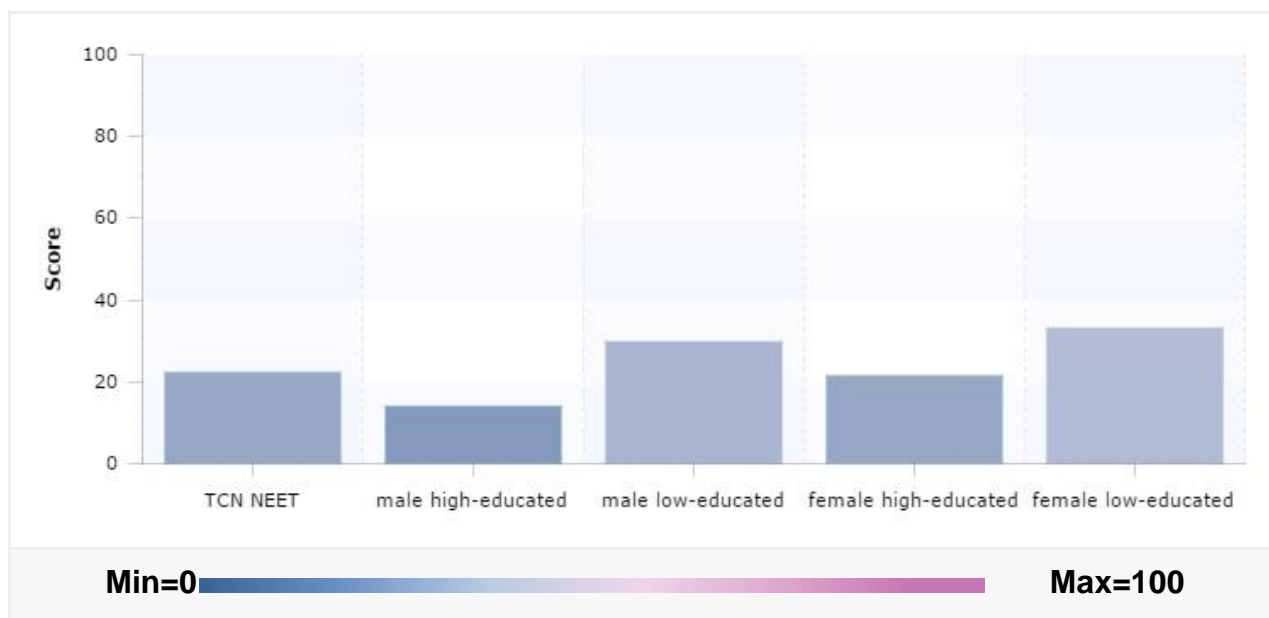
Source: Mipex 2015



Immigrants have more opportunities than obstacles to fully participate in society. The NO's general policies and context favor immigrants' participation in society, thanks to NO's high level of employment, social support and political participation.

Graphic 4.2. Third country national not in education, employment or training by gender and educational attainment, 2012

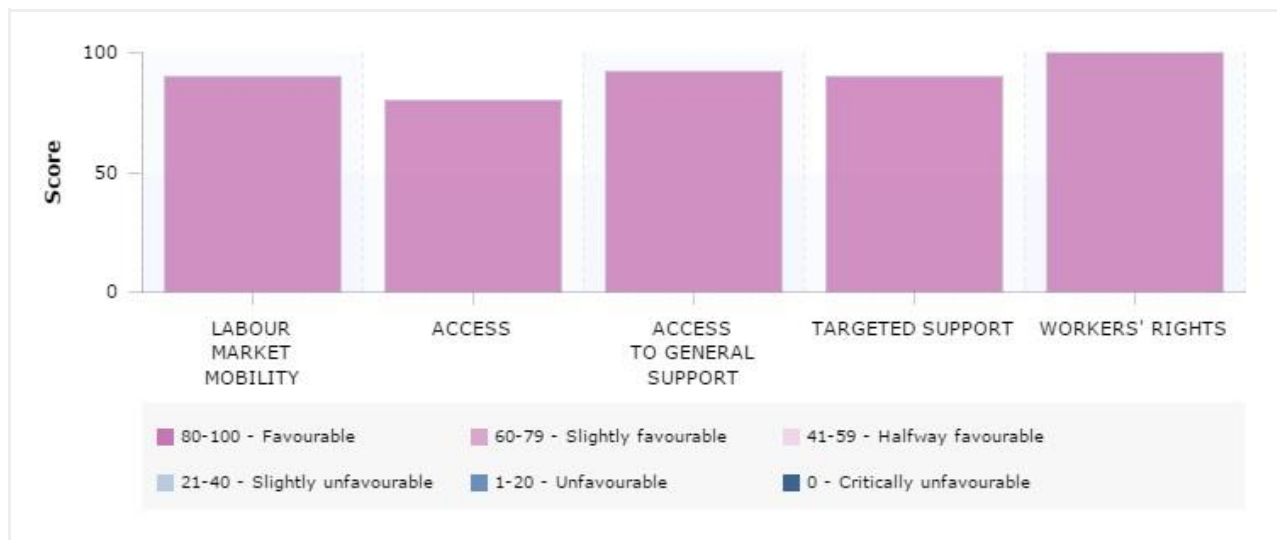
Source: Mipex 2015



An estimated 22% of working-age non-EU citizens are not in employment, education or training in NO. However, the numbers increase among low-educated non-EU men and women (about 1/3) in NO.

Graphic 4.3 Strand and dimension scores on Labour market mobility, 2014

Source: Mipex 2015



Non-EU residents can benefit from favorable rights and support for their labor market integration in NO, ranking third. Most can change jobs and sectors or use general training and study grants like NO citizens. Targeted support such as vocational training and wage subsidies has had positive effects on labor market integration according to robust studies (see box). In practice, some may not be eligible or able to access this targeted support, while problems may arise in practice to use recognition procedures and education/social benefits.

Dimension 1: Access to labor market

- Non-Eu residents have generally favorable access to NO's labor market, with only slightly delays for labor migrants.
- All non-EU labor migrants can only change jobs and sectors once they become long-term residents after 3 years.

Dimension 2: Access to general support

- All non-Eu residents with long-term prospects in NO are encouraged to develop and use their skills through equal access to general support.

- In addition to permanent residents and family migrants, labor migrants on the path to permanent residence can combine their work with education & training and use study grants with the same rights as NO citizens.
- All can get support from public employment services and get their skills and academic qualification recognized through NOKUT (even if missing documentation).
- Greater gaps emerge in the recognition of non-Eu professional qualifications.

Dimension 3: Targeted support

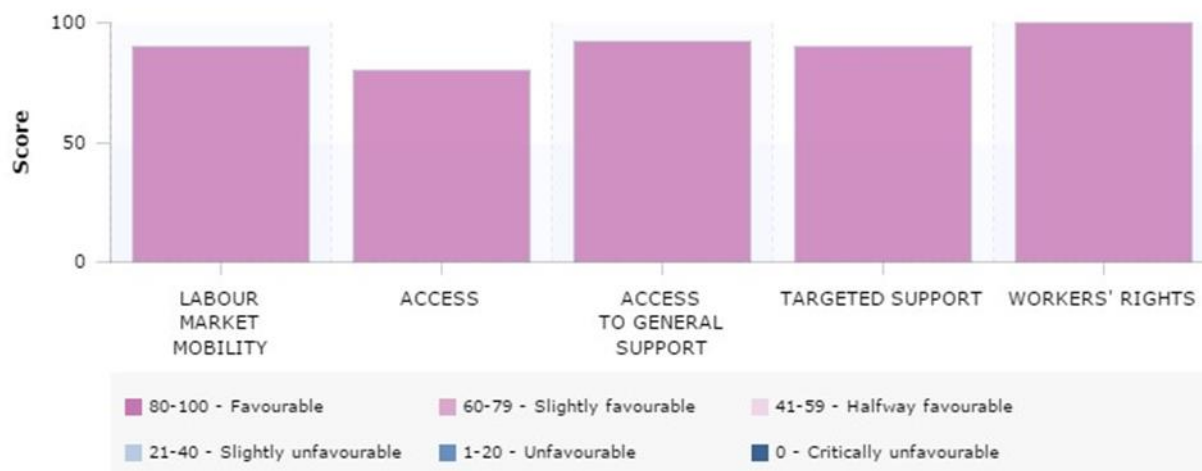
- Non-Eu immigrants may be eligible and able to take up effective targeted support to develop their skills, networks and work experience in NO.
- Newcomers are informed of opportunities through the introduction program, materials and campaigns.
- A one-stop-shop (NAKUT) receives applications for recognitions, but only for non-regulated professions.
- Immigrants can get an advice from specialized employment services, enroll in job-specific-language training and programs with wage subsidies, and work placements.

Dimension 4: Workers' rights

- Non-Eu workers generally have equal rights as NO citizens, depending on the conditions attached to their permit
- Generally equal rights are guaranteed in NO
- Under NO's 2010 Immigration Act, temporary residents using social assistance may possibly not have their permit renewed.

Graphic 4.4. TCN uptake of Lifelong Learning by gender and educational attainment, 2012

Source: Mipex 2015



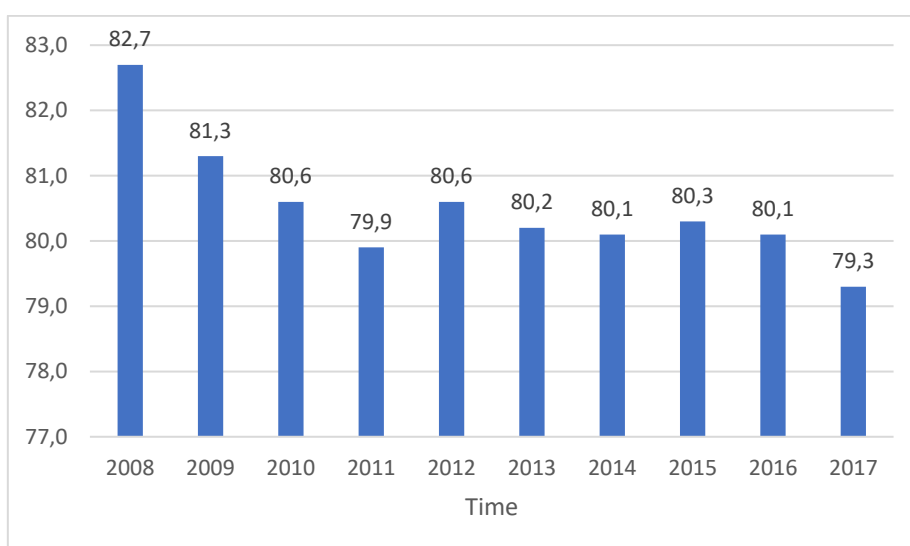
Working-age non-EU immigrants are more likely to access education and training in NO than in most European countries. Around 30% of men and women reported that they were recently enrolled in adult education or training in 2011/2. Uptake was slightly higher among high-educated men and women (1/3) than low-educated men were and women (1/4). Relatively few obtain a degree in NO. Moreover, most unemployed non-EU citizens must find a new job in NO without the support of unemployment benefits. According to 2011/2 estimates, 38% of non-EU citizens received any unemployment benefit when unemployed in the previous year.

5. LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION

In this section, we will analyze the labor market integration in Norway. We used different data from Eurostat. Here you can find some of them, as the activity rates by sex, age and citizenship (divided in males and females). The unemployment rates by sex, age, and country of birth. The part-time employment as percentage of the total employment, by sex, age and citizenship. The temporary employees as percentage of the total number of employees, by sex, age and citizenship.

Graphic 5.1. Activity rates by sex, age and citizenship (male)

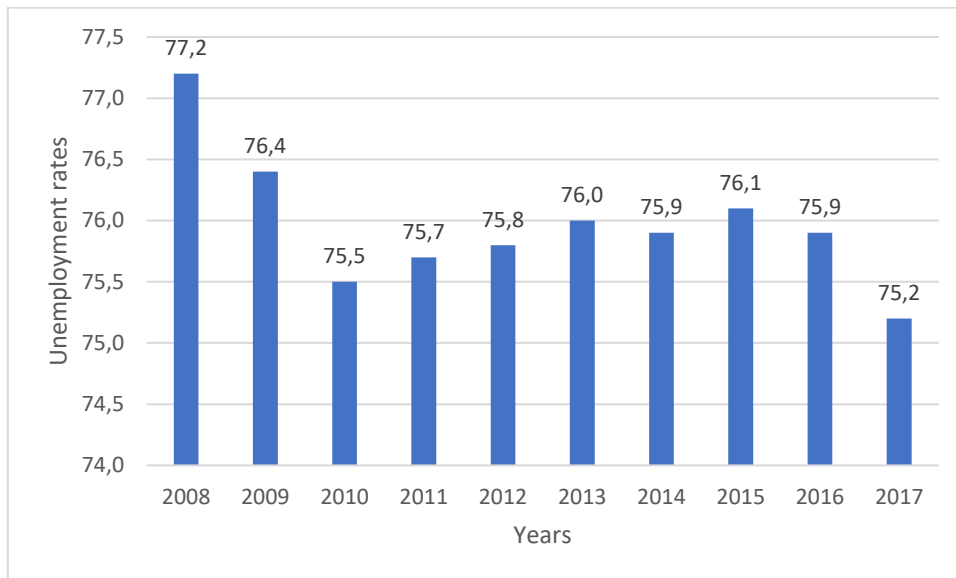
Source: Eurostat, last updated 20.04.2018 [Ifsa_argan]



We see that that is a decreasing activity rates from 2008 to 2017 regarding the migrant males.

Graphic 5.2 Activity rates by sex, age and citizenship (females)

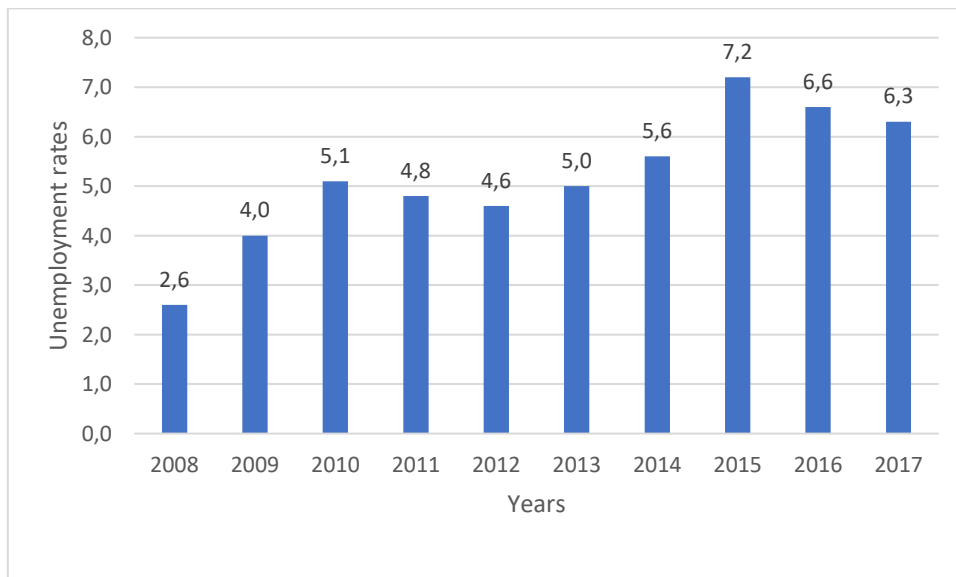
Source: Eurostat, last updated 20.04.2018 [lfsa_argan]



Also in the female case, we have a little decrease of activity rates from 2008 to 2017.

Graphic 5.3 Unemployment rates by sex, age and country of birth

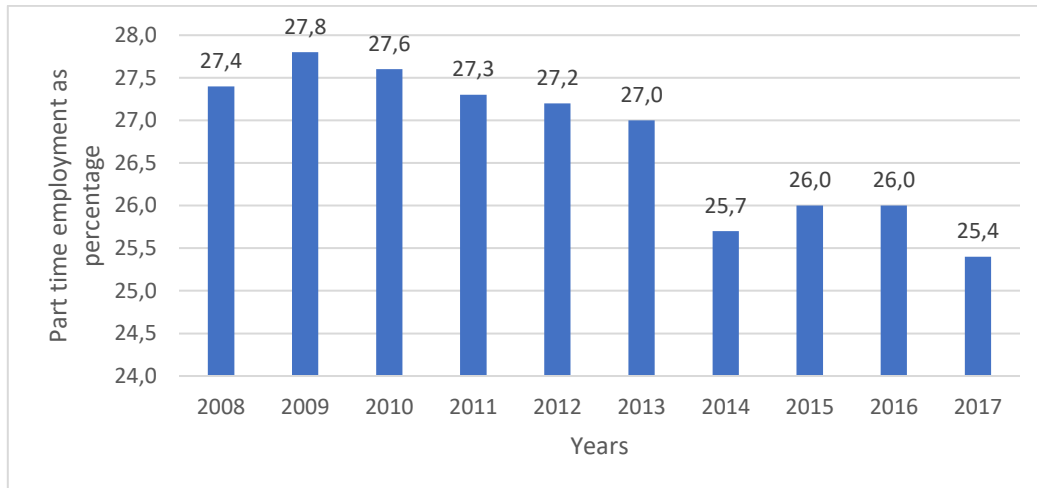
Source: Eurostat, last updated 20.04.2018 [lfsa_urgacob]



We see that in 2008 there was a low unemployment rate, which increased a bit from 2009 and a spread in 2015; it decreased a bit in 2016 and 2017.

Graphic 5.4 Part-time employment as percentage as the total employment by sex, age and citizenship

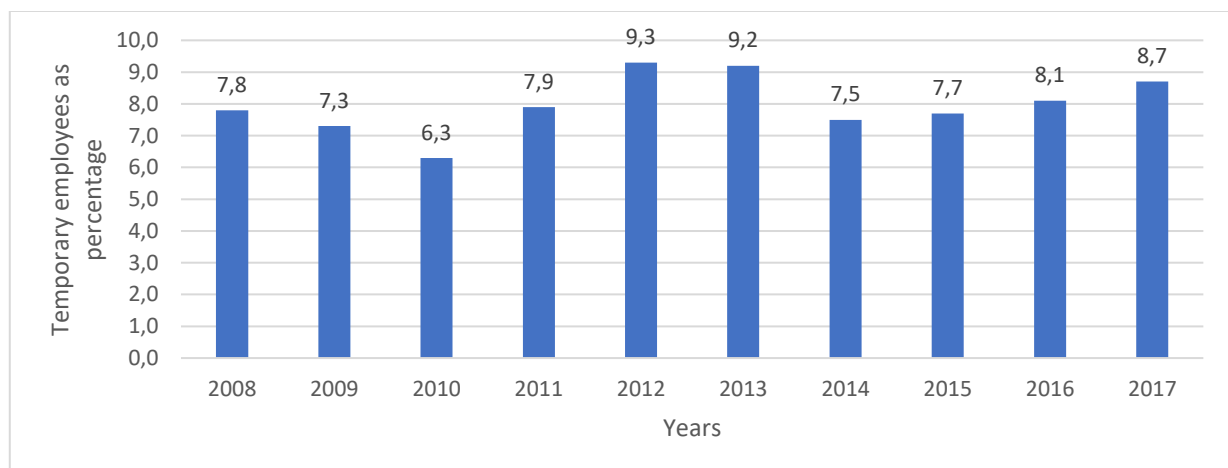
Source: Eurostat, last updated 20.04.2018 [lfsa_eppgan]



Here, there was a pick in 2009, a low in 2014, but it did not change a lot from 2008 to 2017.

Graphic 5.5 Temporary employees as percentage of the total number of employees, by sex, age and country of birth

Source: Eurostat, last updated 20.04.2018 [lfsa_etpgacob]



We have a decrease from 2008 to 2010, then an increasing until 2012/2013, a little decrease in 2014 and then another increasing until 2017.