

# Migrants in the German labour market

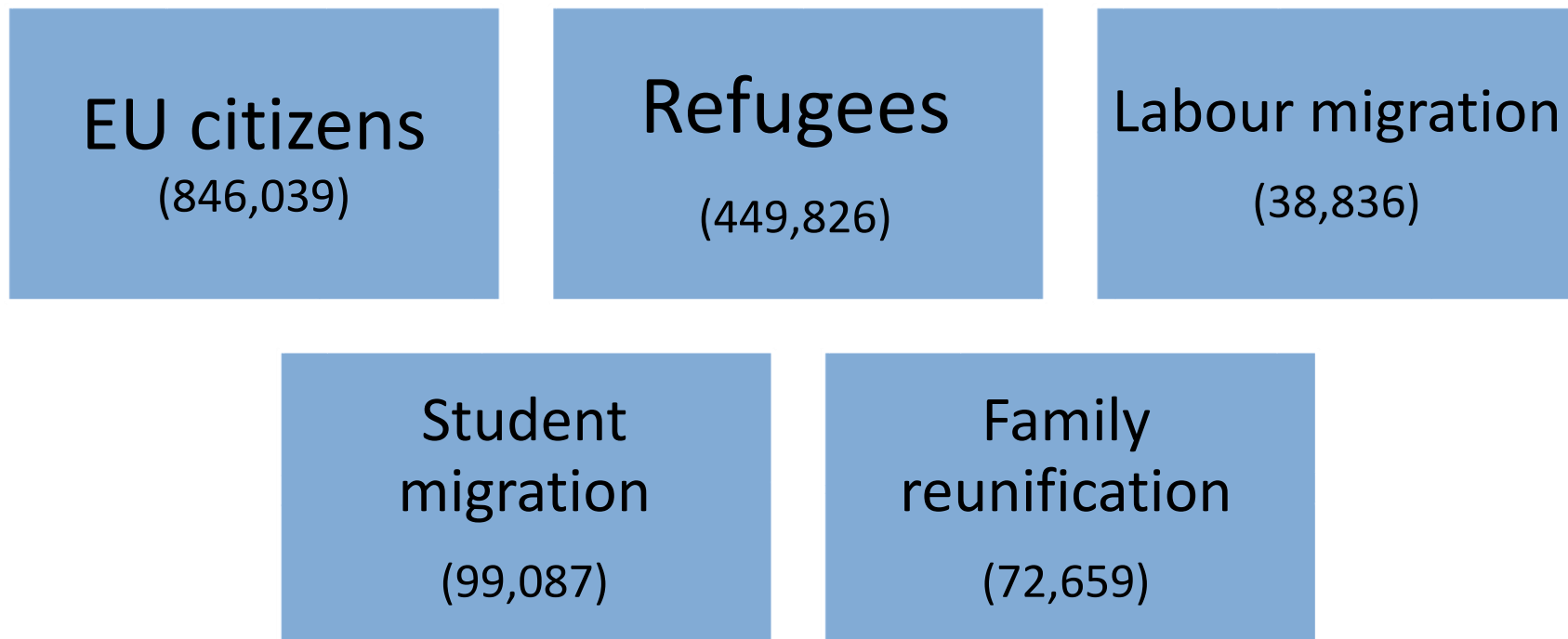
## Facts and figures, policy strategies and stakeholders

Leaders' Roundtable on Immigration  
Berlin, 7 March 2017

# Summary

1. Immigration to Germany
2. Integration in the labour market
3. Policy strategies
4. Main stakeholders

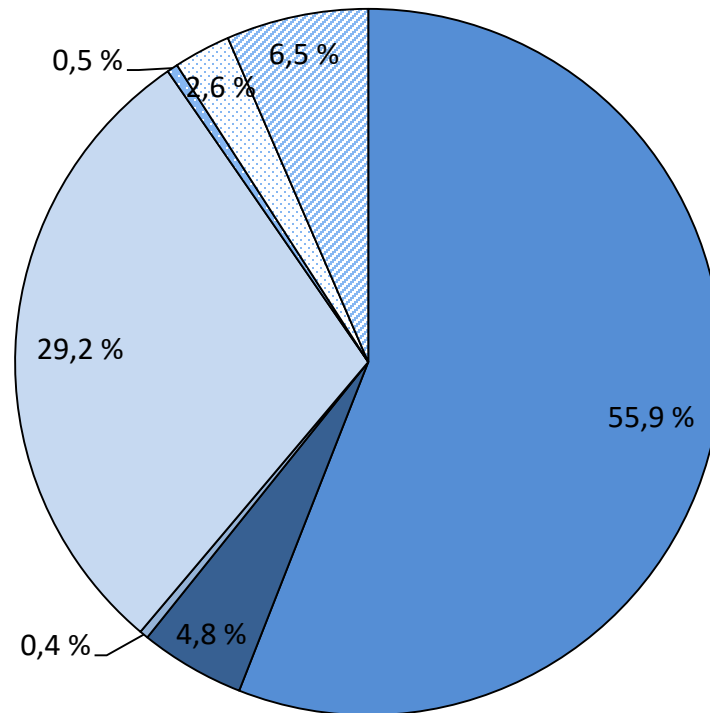
# 1. Immigration to Germany



International gross migration to Germany 2015

(Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees 2016, Data of the Federal Statistical Office) © Minor

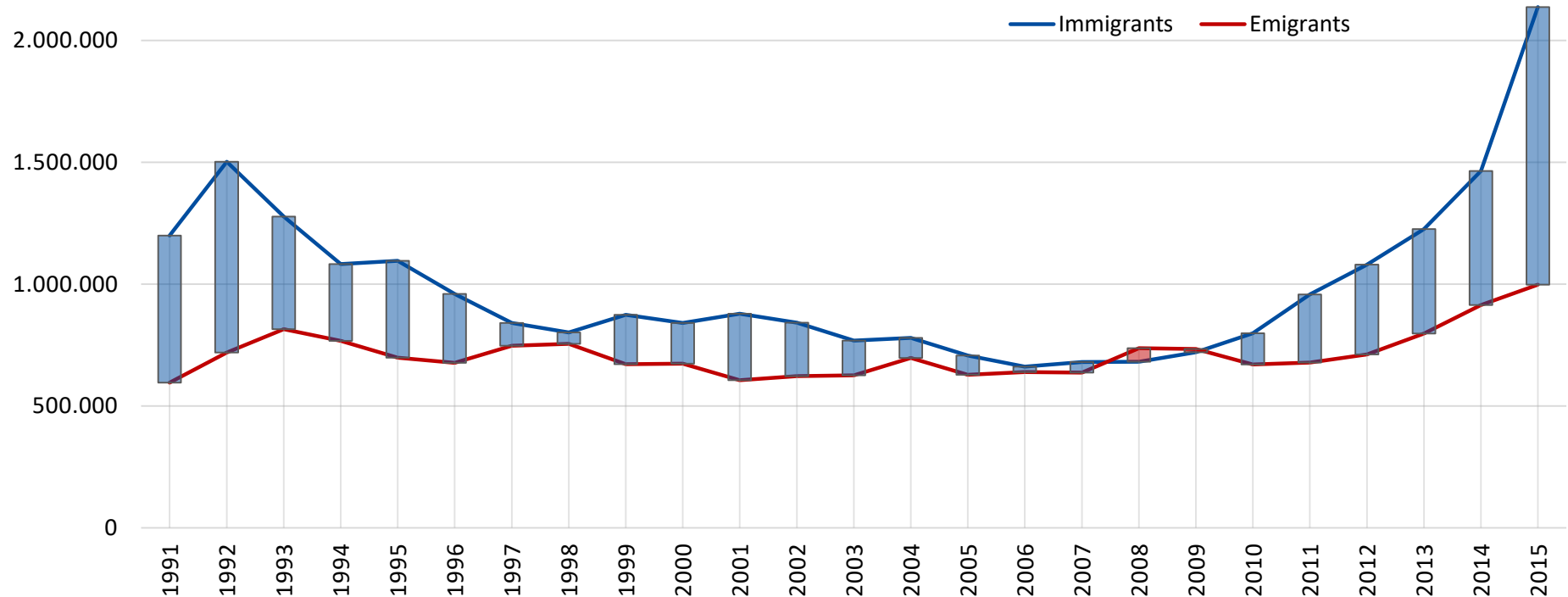
# 1.a. Typology of migration flows



- Internal migration within the EU
- Family reunification
- Ethnic German resettlers (incl. family members and Jewish immigrants)
- Asylum seekers
- Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes
- Labour migration
- Student migration

International gross migration to Germany by purpose of migration type in 2015  
(Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees 2016) © Minor

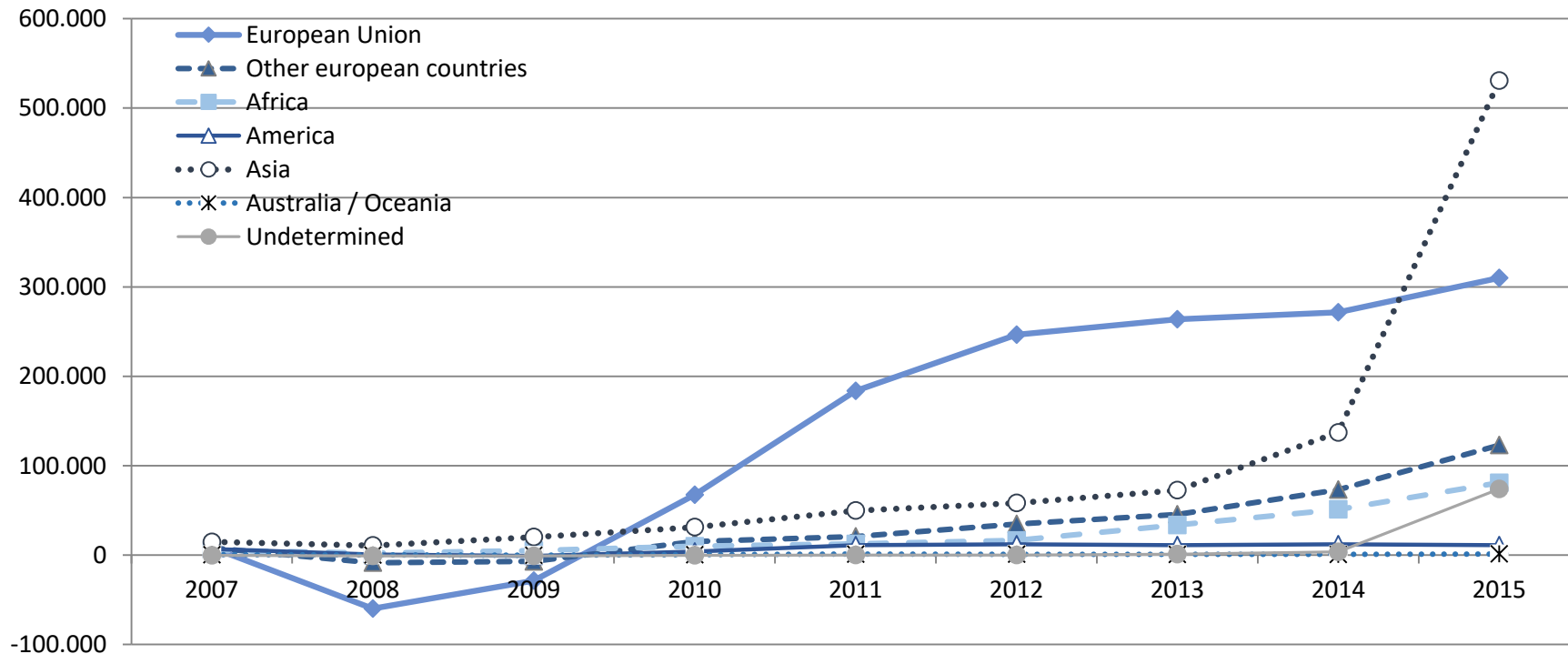
## 1.b. Migration flow dynamics



International net migration to Germany from 1991 to 2015

(Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees 2016, Data of the Federal Statistical Office) © Minor

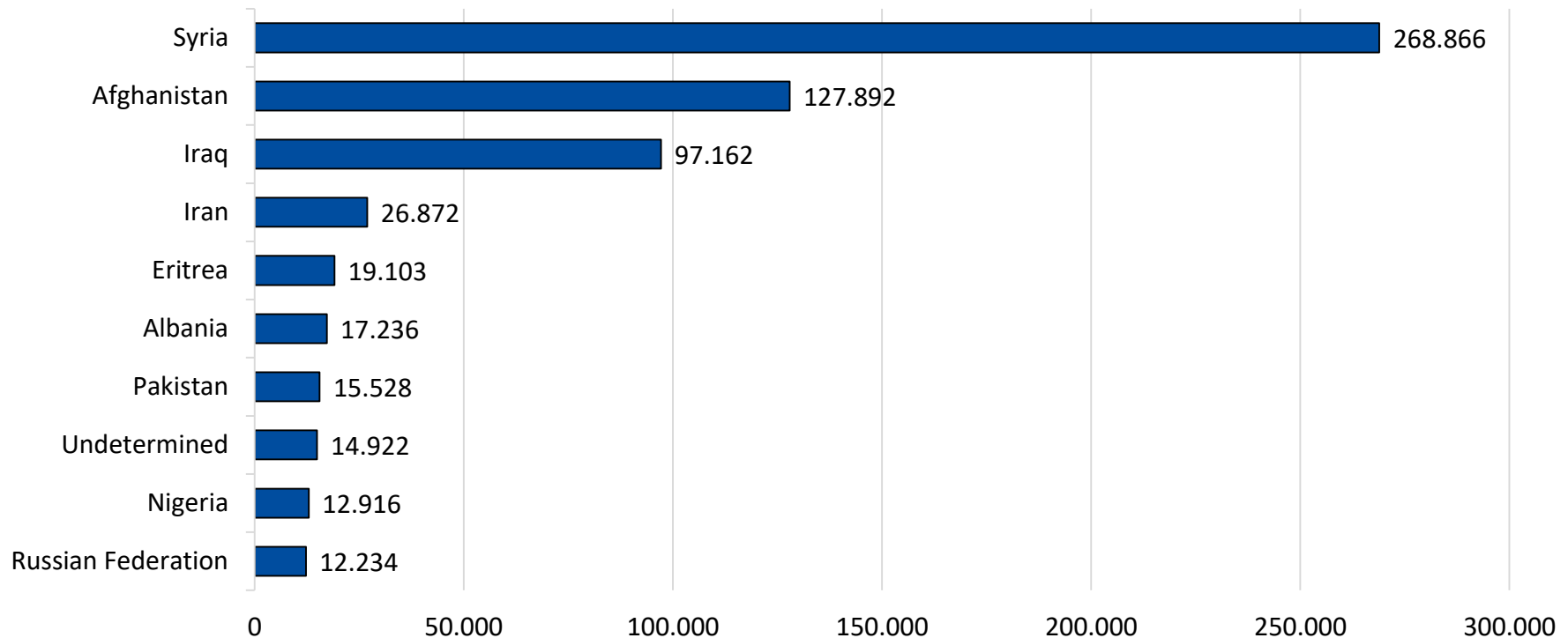
# 1.c. Regions of origin



international net migration to Germany by region of origin from 2007 to 2015

(Source: Federal Statistical Office 2016) © Minor

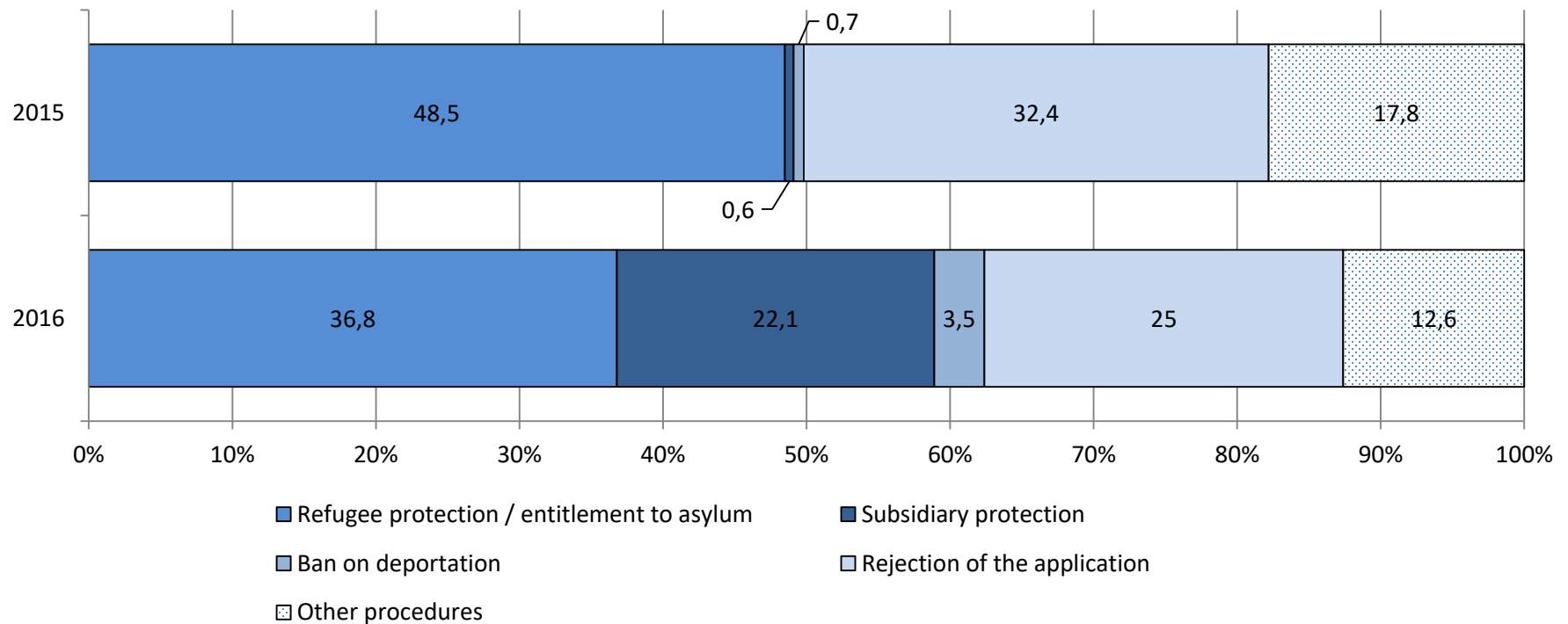
## 1.d. Asylum applicants: countries of origin



Number of asylum applications in Germany by country of origin in 2016

(Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees 2017) © Minor

## 1.e. Asylum applicants: decisions of the Federal Office



Decisions of the Federal Office on asylum applications in 2015 and 2016  
(Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees 2017) © Minor



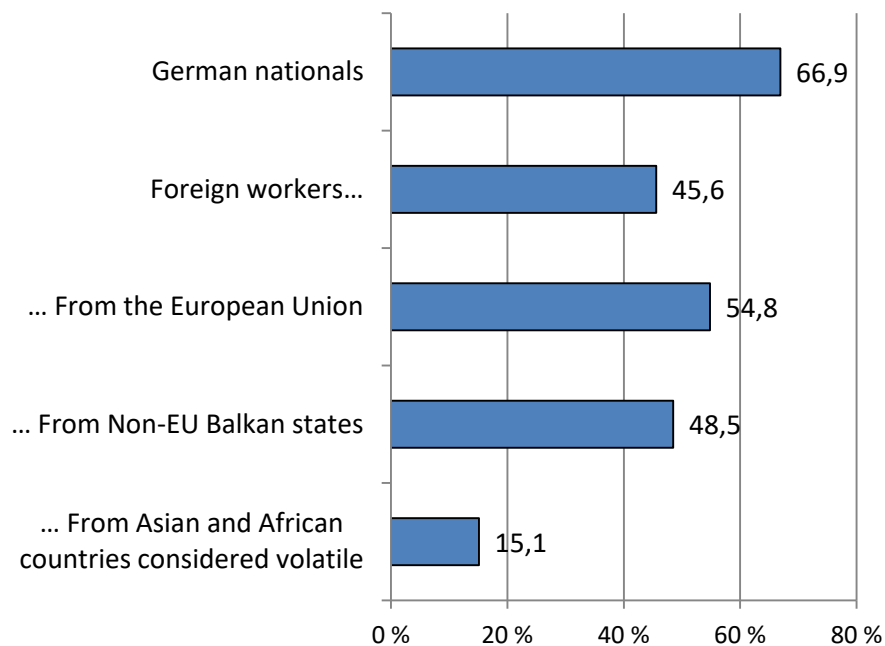
## 2. Labour market integration

Labour force  
participation  
rate

Unemployment  
rate

Skill  
requirement  
level

## 2.a. Labour force participation

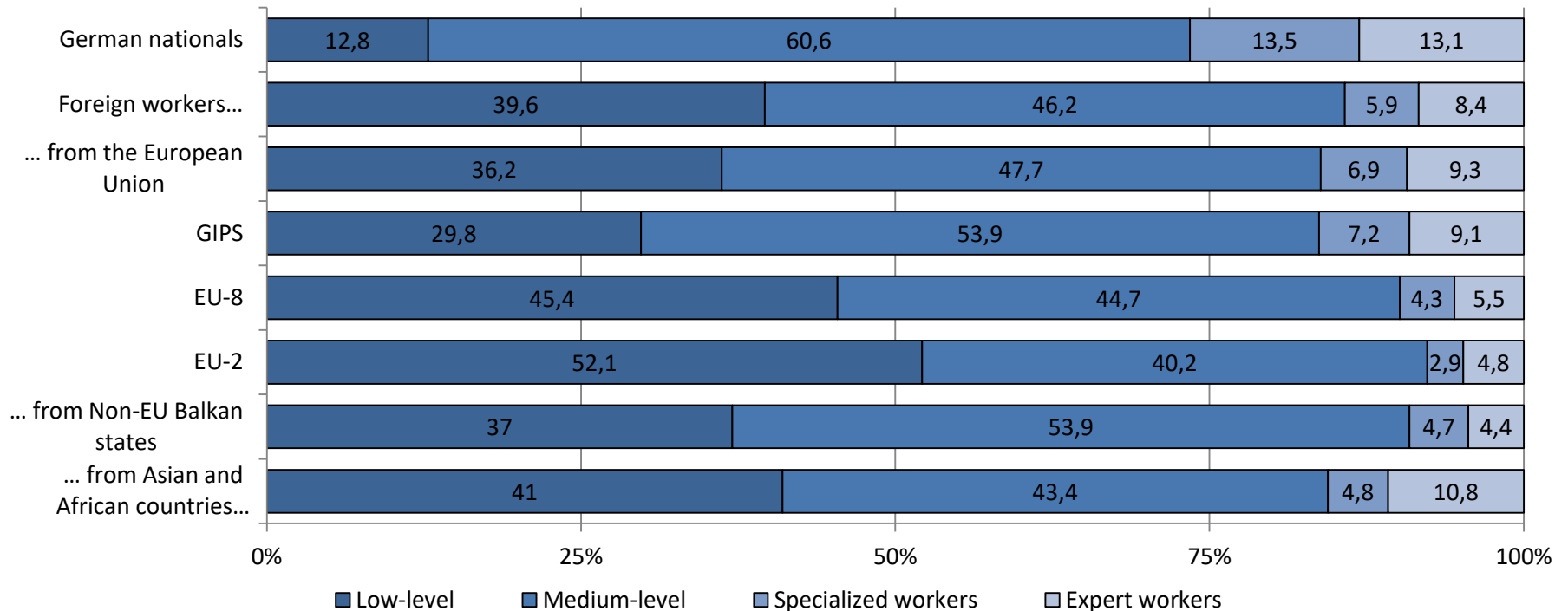


- Significant differences between immigrant groups
- Different prerequisites and conditions
- Highest employment rate: EU citizens (free movement)
- Lowest employment rate: nationals from Asian and African countries of origin, considered volatile
- Reversed figures for unemployment rate

### Labour force participation rate of German and Non-German citizens

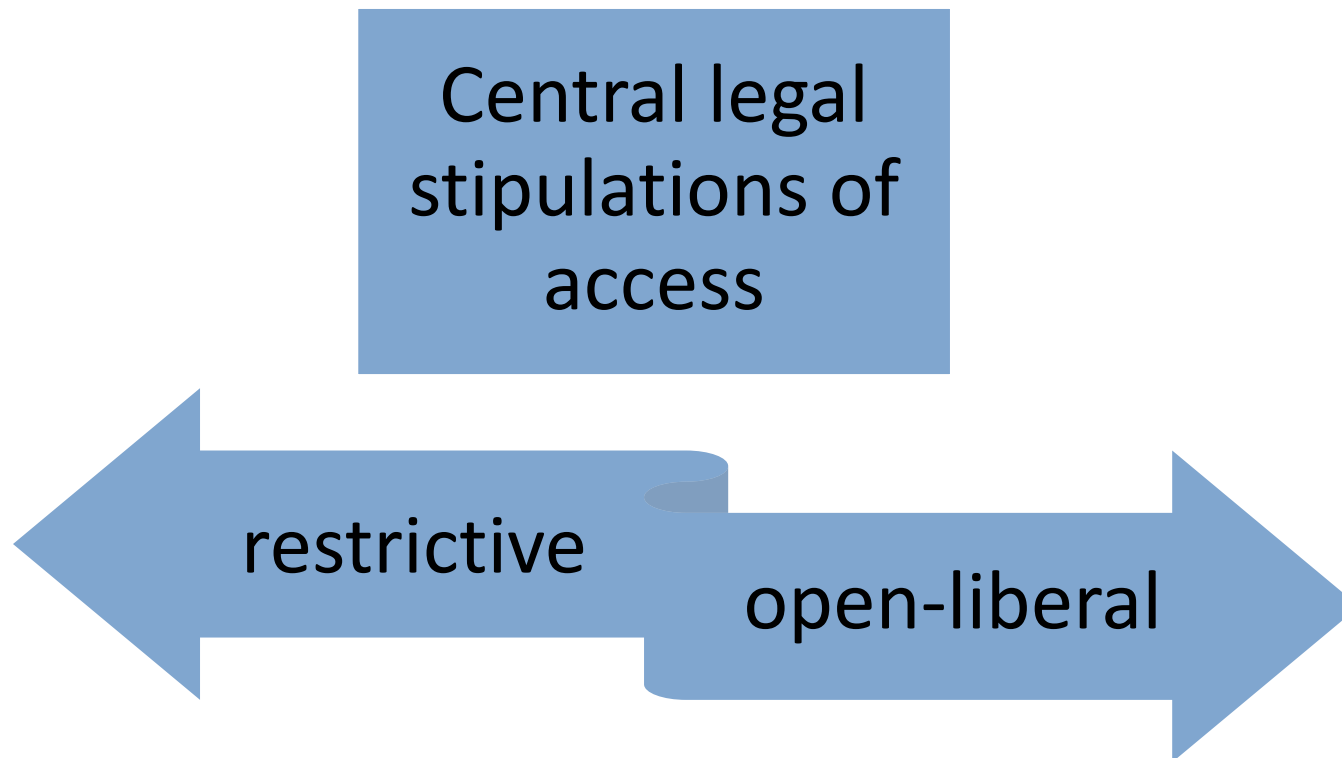
(Source: Federal Employment Agency, Institute for Employment Research 2016) © Minor

## 2.a. Level of skills utilized in the work place



**Skill requirement level of German and Non-German workers**  
(Source: Federal Employment Agency 2016) © Minor

### 3. Policy strategies



## 3.a. Conditions of access: refugees

- Historically, refugees were barred from the labour market; later on they could access it after four years of residence in Germany
- Current developments: various laws and regulations gradually opened up the labour market to refugees
- Asylum seekers can start working or begin a vocational education or apprenticeship after three months of registered residence
- Asylum seekers can participate in the professional education system from the first day of registered residence
- Some groups of asylum seekers are still barred from the labour market: so called safe countries of origin

## 3.b. Conditions of access: highly qualified migrants

- OECD Report 2013: Germany has one of the most liberal immigration regimes for highly-qualified migrants amongst OECD countries
- Liberal regulations for highly-qualified and highly-skilled migrants (specialized workers, researchers etc.): i. e. EU Blue Card
- Leading country for the use of the Blue Card in the EU: 85.5 % of the Blue Cards granted in 2015 EU-wide were issued in Germany
- But: Still low rate of labour migration

### 3.c. Conditions of access: qualified professionals

- New regulations in Residency Act for qualified professionals
- Possibility to seek work in Germany from abroad
- Possibility to enter Germany for the purpose of recognition of foreign qualifications or credentials and to seek employment in corresponding industry sector
- Characteristics of the German training system must be taken into account: nationally-specific and not well-known dual education, difficulties in obtaining an certificate of equivalence or a state accreditation

## 3.d. Conditions of access: family reunification

- Additional possibility for access to the labour market
- General rule: direct access to the labour market and to professional education system
- Conditions for reunification are restrictive: minimum knowledge of German language (A1) and sufficient means of subsistence provided by the sponsor are required
- More liberal conditions for reunification for highly-qualified migrants
- For some groups of refugees the family reunification has been temporary suspended until March 2018



## 3.e. Conditions of access: students and trainees

- Low barriers for students: minimal student fees
- Funding programmes for trainees from EU-countries (MobiPro-EU: financial and technical support)
- After graduation, third-country nationals can receive a residence permit for a period of up to 18 months to search for a job that is appropriate to their acquired qualifications
- After the professional education third-country trainees can receive a residence permit for up to 12 months to search for a job that is appropriate to their acquired qualifications

## 4. Main stakeholders

Federal Ministry of  
Labour and Social Affairs  
(IQ, IvAF, MobiPro-EU)

Federal Employment  
Agency  
several programmes for labour  
market integration of specific  
groups (youth, women, refugees,  
long-term unemployed)

Ministry of Education  
and Research, Ministry  
of Internal Affairs,  
Federal Office for  
Migration and Refugees,  
Universities

Federal Ministry of  
Economic Affairs,  
business networks

Trade unions and  
employers'  
organisations

NGOs and volunteers

# Thank you for your attention!

Competence Centre on Immigration

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Das Förderprogramm „Integration durch Qualifizierung (IQ)“ wird durch das Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales gefördert.



## Bibliography and further information

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# The Competence Centre on Immigration

Leaders' Roundtable on Immigration  
Berlin, 7 March 2017

Das Förderprogramm „Integration durch Qualifizierung (IQ)“ wird durch das Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales gefördert.



## The Competence Centre at a glance

- One of five Competence Centres of the funding program IQ (Counselling and Job Training of Migrants, Vocational German Language, Intercultural Opening and Anti-Discrimination, Migrant Entrepreneurship)
- Interface between current migration studies and labour market integration practices for migrants
- Liaison between federal funding programs IQ, MobiPro-EU for European trainees and “Integration of Asylum Seekers and Refugees” (IvAF)

## What we do at a glance

- Knowledge transfer
- Publications (working papers and articles) on labour market integration of migrants and refugees
- Conferences for expert exchange and hearings
- Development and coordination of quality assurance standards
- Analyses and reports for the ministries and authorities



# Thank you for your attention!

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