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Pathways Project Media Briefing

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The Representation of Citizens of Immigrant Origin Comparative Findings

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ANR

DFG Deutsche
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E·S·R·C
ECONOMIC
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NWO
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Countries Included

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Legislative terms covered

- Belgium: 2003-2007, 2007-2010, 2010-2014
- France: 2002-2007, 2007-2012
- Germany: 2002-2005, 2005-2009, 2009-2013
- Greece: 2009-2012, June 2012-2014, Jan 2015- Aug 2015
- Italy: 2001-2006, 2006-2008, 2008-2013
- Netherlands: 2003-2006, 2006-2010, 2010-2012
- Spain: 2004-2008, 2008-2011, 2011-2015
- United Kingdom: 2001-2005, 2005-2010, 2010-2015



Our classification of who is a citizen of immigrant origin

All those individuals who either

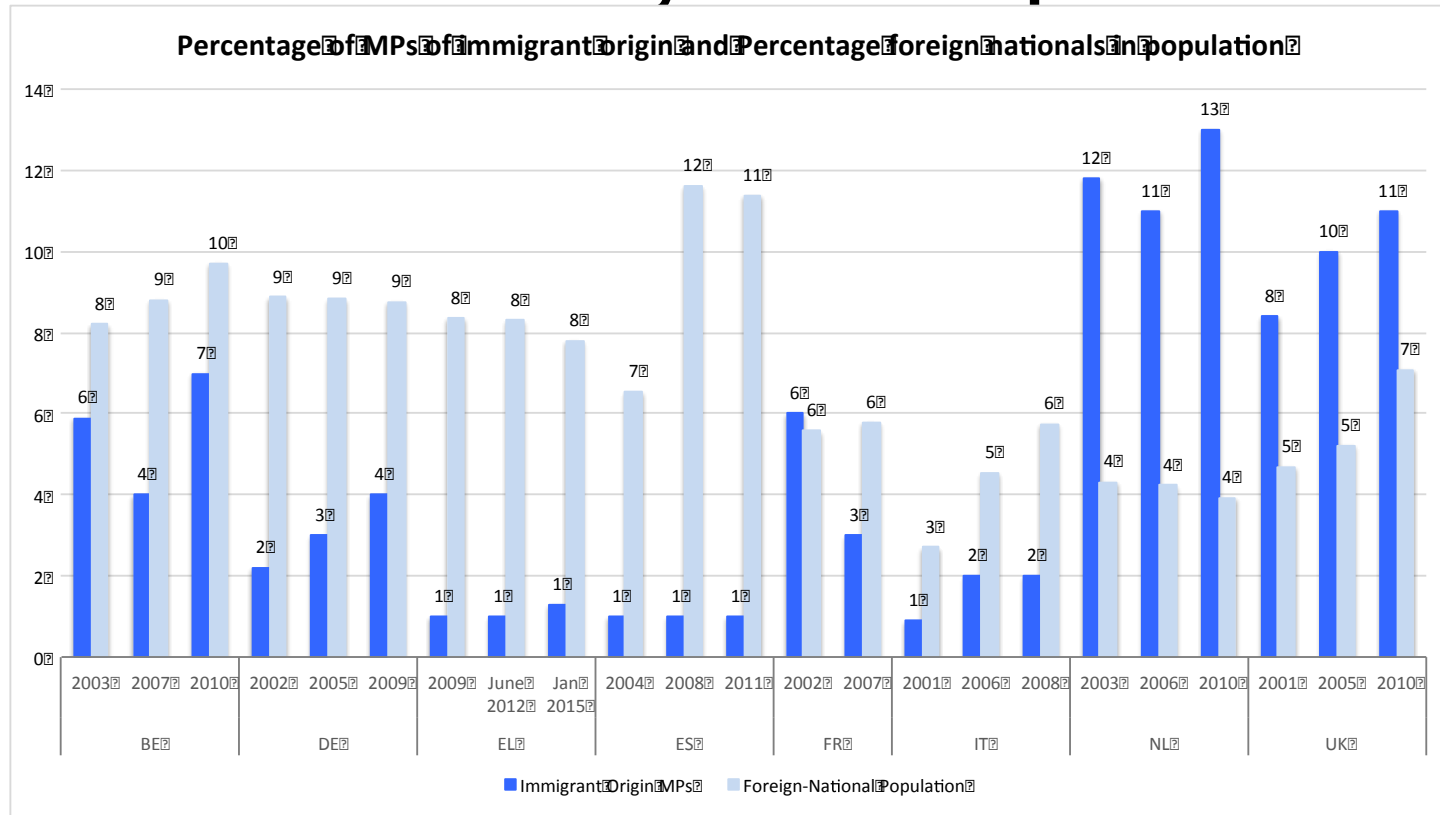
- Were born abroad as foreign nationals (1st generation); or
- Have/had one parent of foreign nationality at birth (2nd generation).

Our definition does not fully overlap with:

- Ethnic minorities
- Immigrants



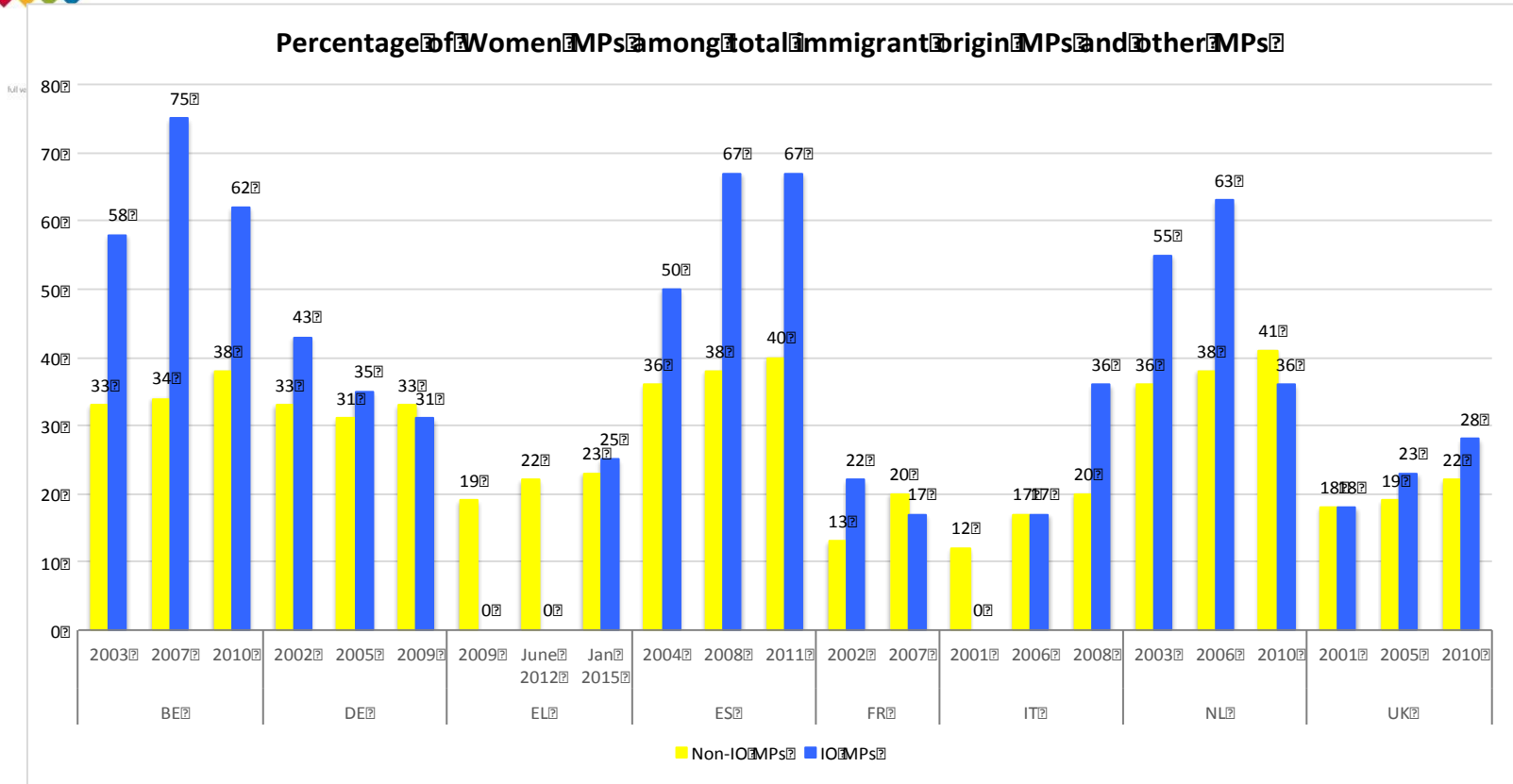
How many in the population? How many reach parliament?



- Statistics on foreign-born + offspring not available across countries; foreign-nationals closest approximation (excludes naturalized + children)
- Clear under-representation in all countries.
- Netherlands & UK closest to figures in population
- Increasing trend in Germany, Italy and UK; stagnation in Greece & Spain; fluctuations in Belgium, France and the Netherlands.



What is the gender balance?



- Immigrant origin MPs more likely to be women in Belgium and Spain
- Similar percentages for IO MPs and non-IO MPs in Germany and the UK
- Fluctuations over time for other countries



Age and Education

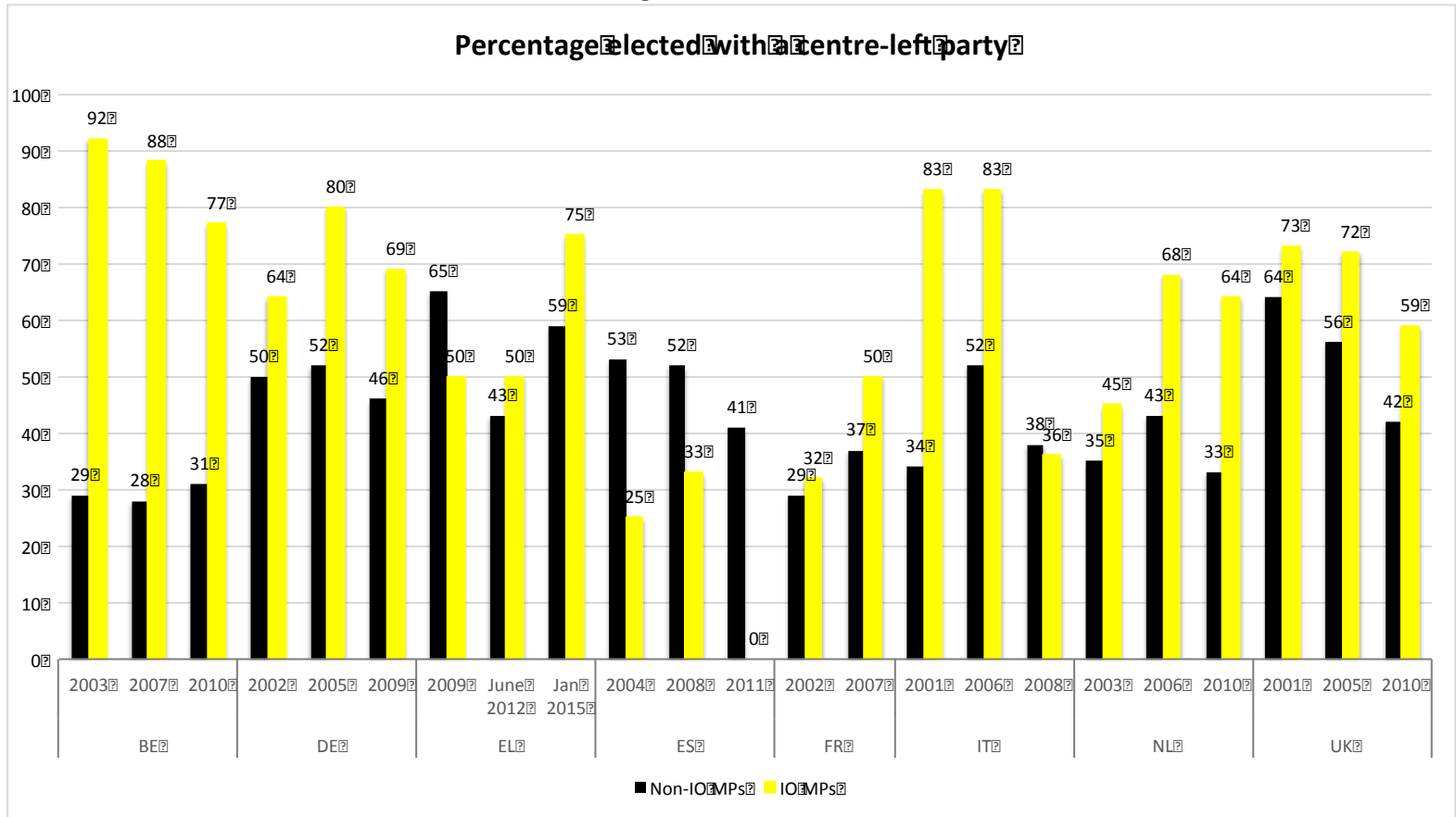
% with University degree

- MPs of immigrant origin tend to be younger, except in Greece and Spain where they are older than other MPs
- The largest age gaps are found in Germany and Greece
- The percentage of university graduates is very high among MPs regardless of origin, usually above 75%
- In several countries, immigrant origin MPs are somewhat more likely to have a university degree

		Non-IO MPs	IO MPs
BE	2003	97	83
	2007	95	88
	2010	96	83
DE	2002	80	86
	2005	82	75
	2009	83	81
EL	2009	93	100
	June 2012	90	100
	2015	91	75
ES	2004	90	100
	2008	87	100
	2011	91	100
FR	2002	89	97
	2007	88	94
IT	2001	73	33
	2006	73	75
	2008	69	73
NL	2003	87	91
	2006	87	89
	2010	91	95
UK	2001	78	91
	2005	80	90
	2010	82	89



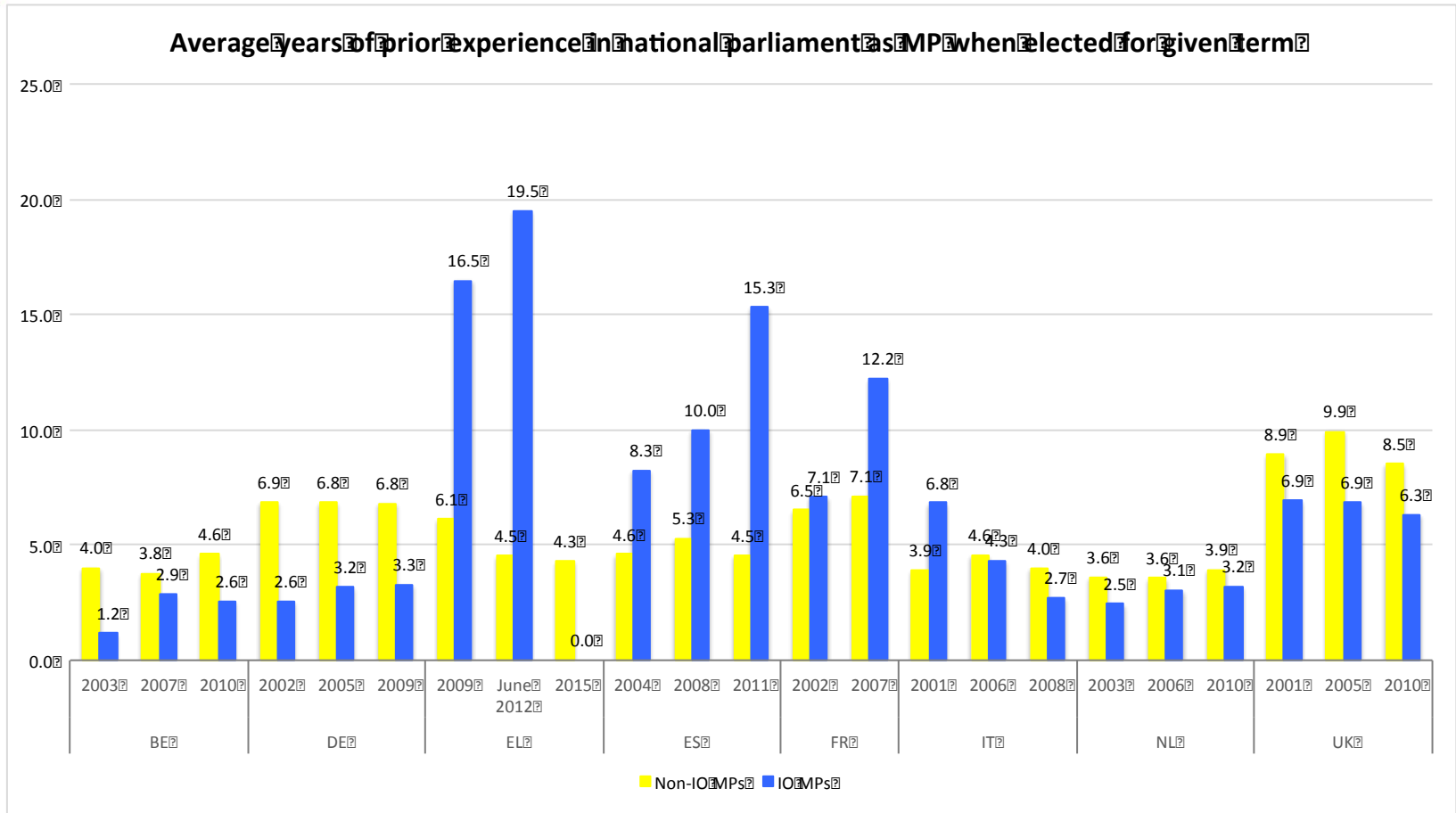
Party profiles



- In most countries, immigrant origin MPs are (much) more likely to be elected as candidates of a centre-left party (except in Spain)
- In most countries, the party profile of IO MPs is markedly different to that of the rest of MPs



Differences in political experience



- IO MPs are somewhat less likely than the rest of MPs to hold a leadership position in their national party organisation, but differences are small
- IO MPs are less likely to have prior experience in elected local or regional office
- IO MPs have been sitting in parliament on average for fewer years



In Summary

- The Netherlands and the UK lead in the representation of citizens of immigrant origin in national parliaments across the 8 countries studied
- South European countries fare worst
- There is no single universal socio-demographic profile for MPs of immigrant origin, but they tend to be younger and are highly educated
- The gender profile varies considerably across countries
- Immigrant origin MPs tend to be elected with centre-left parties, but less so in Southern Europe
- Immigrant origin MPs tend to have gained less political experience before gaining a seat in the national parliament



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