



# HOW IS THE PANDEMIC AFFECTING IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION?

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## Immigrants have a significantly higher risk of contracting COVID-19

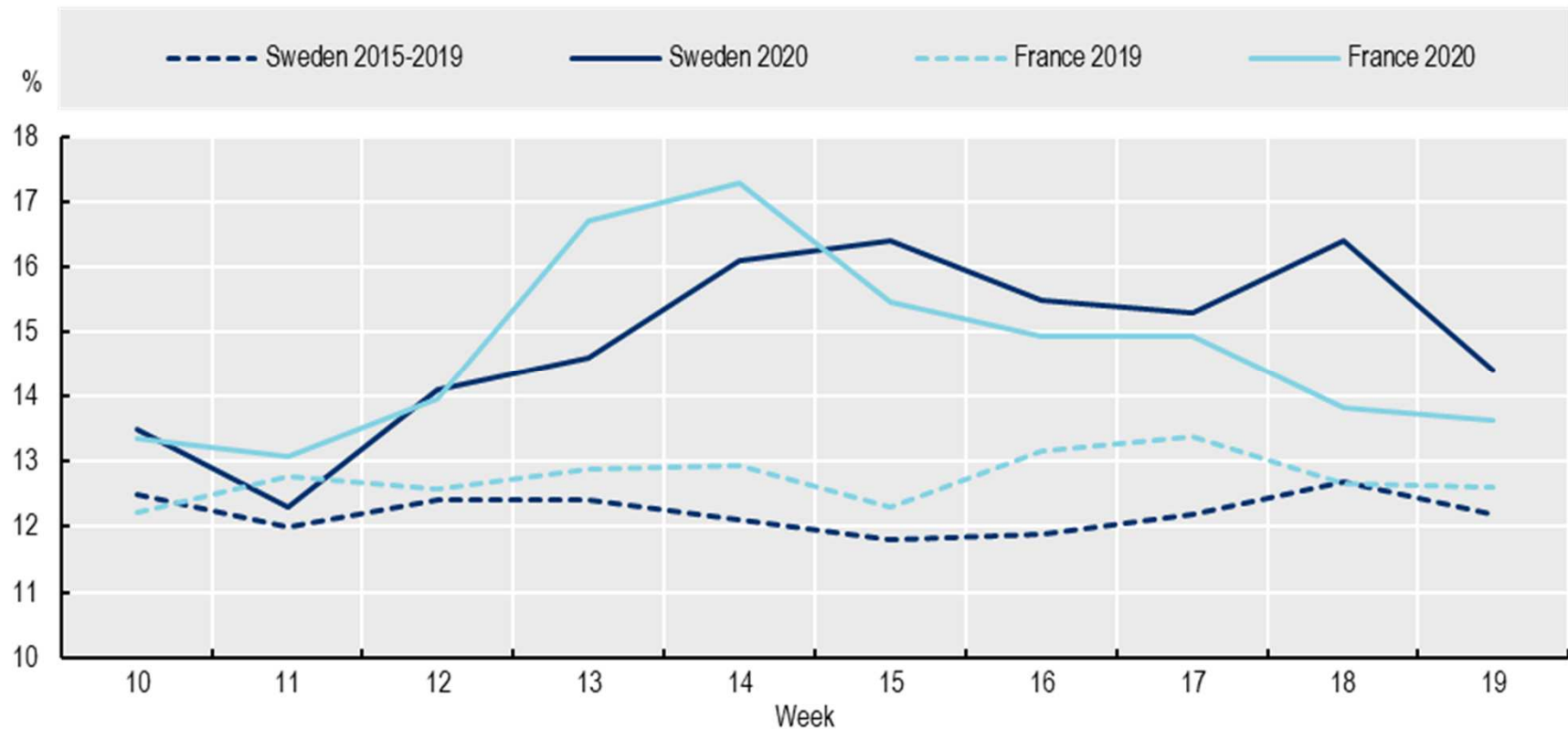
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- Increased poverty and poor housing conditions (poor standards of accommodation, large families living together, overcrowding)
- Residing in buildings and areas with higher **population density** and with more frequent use of **public transport**
- Often active in jobs of systemic importance that **cannot be carried out from home**. Often engaged in vulnerable working conditions in terms of social distance in some specific industries.
- **Migrant-specific factors:**
  - in many countries poor access to tests and/or medical treatment due to the legal situation and less social security protection;
  - limited access to information due to lack of knowledge of the host country's language and a smaller/different network
- **The infection risk was at least twice** that of the native-born in all countries for which we have data...



## Immigrants also have a higher excess mortality

Share of immigrants among deaths France and Sweden, March-April 2020 compared with previous periods





## Immigrants - and especially recent immigrants – have also a higher risk of unemployment

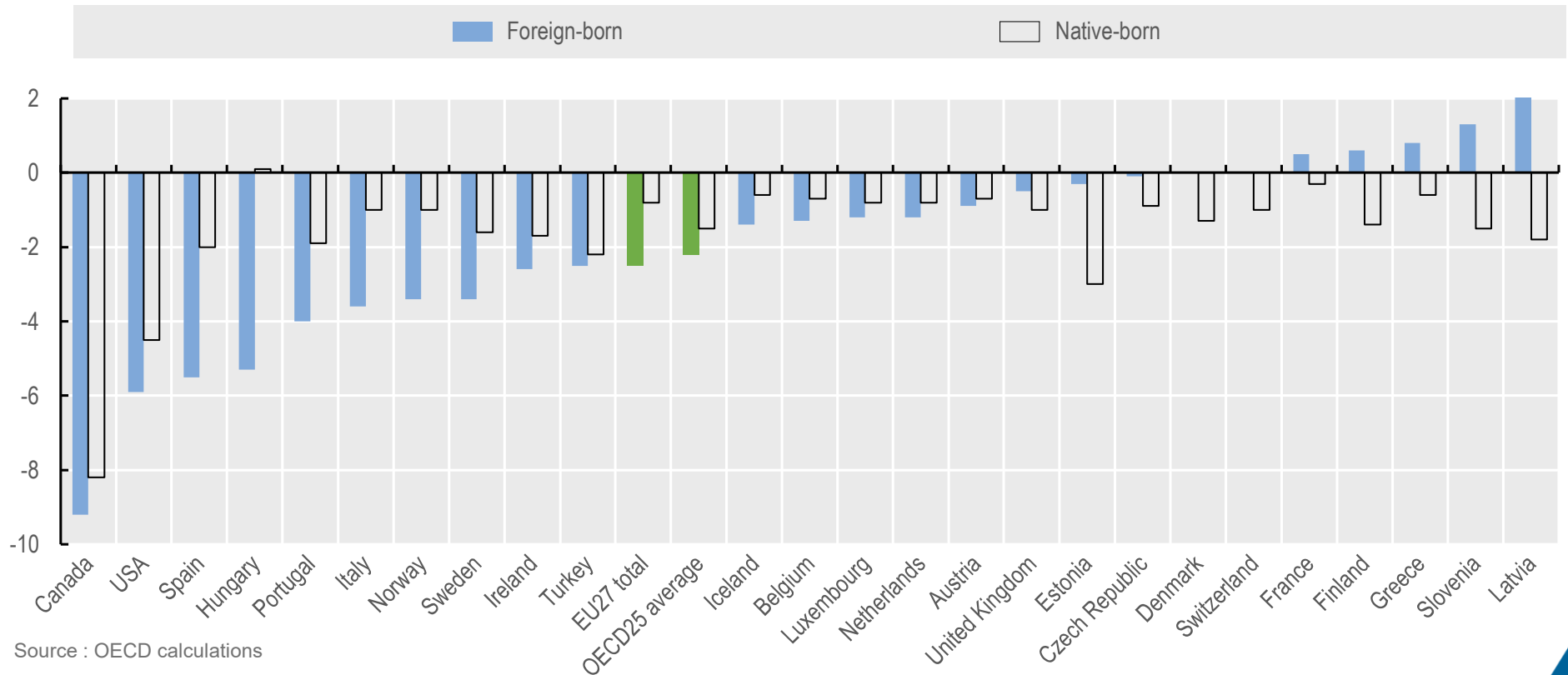
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- More often employed in unstable jobs; shorter job tenure
- Discrimination increases in recessions
- Networks are also becoming more relevant – migrants' networks are generally less strong
- Recently migrated immigrants - including the refugees - are especially affected by this
- Migrants are overrepresented in industries that have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic



## The labour market impact is not (yet) widely visible...

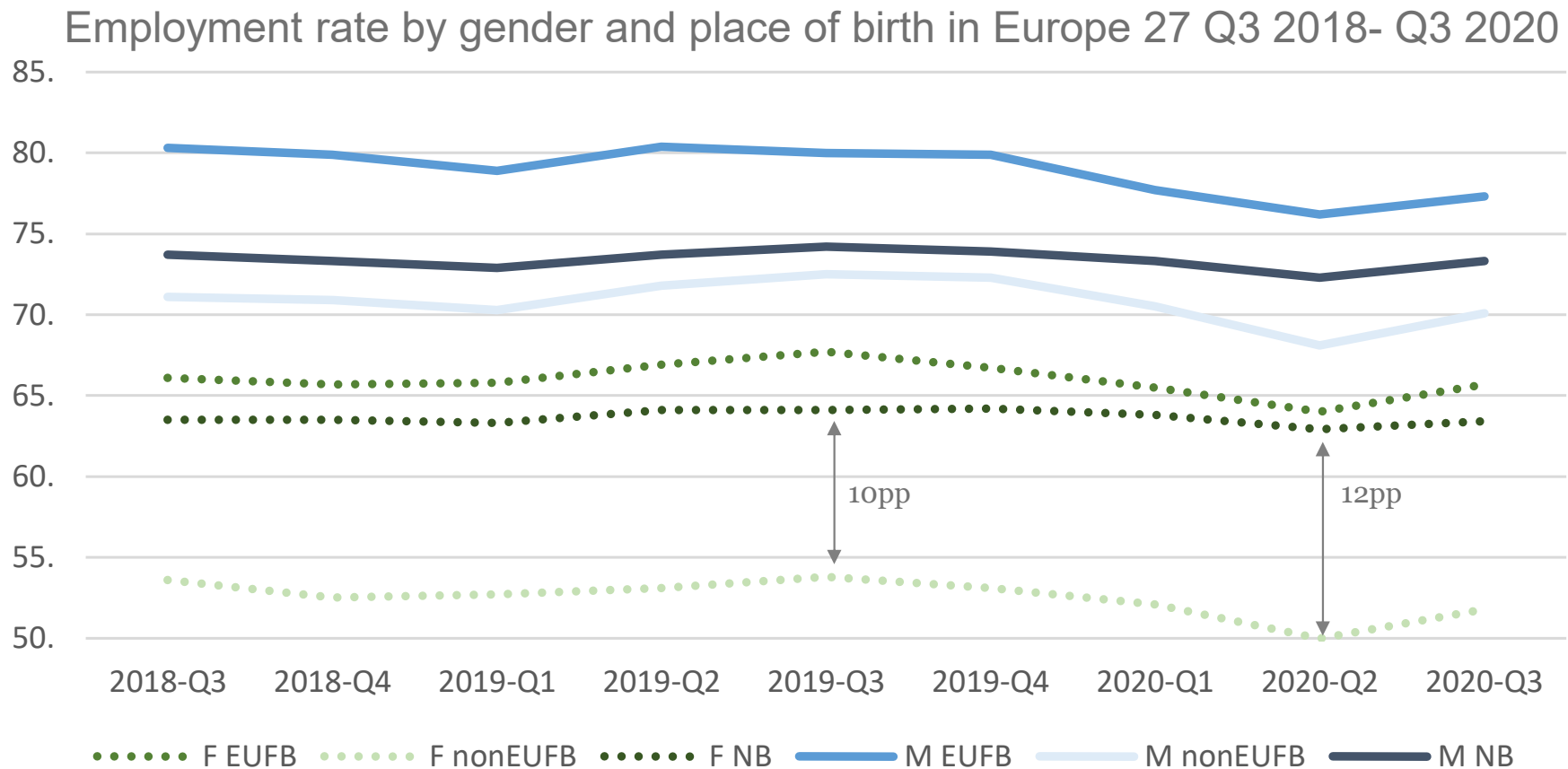
Change in the employment rate Q3 2019-20 in selected OECD countries, percentage points



- In Europe, non-EU migrants (15-64) had seen an improvement in their average employment rate between 2013 and 2019 (from 54.3% to 62.2%).
- The employment rate of non-EU migrants dropped to 60.7% in Q3-2020



...but some groups are already particularly affected



Source : OECD calculations

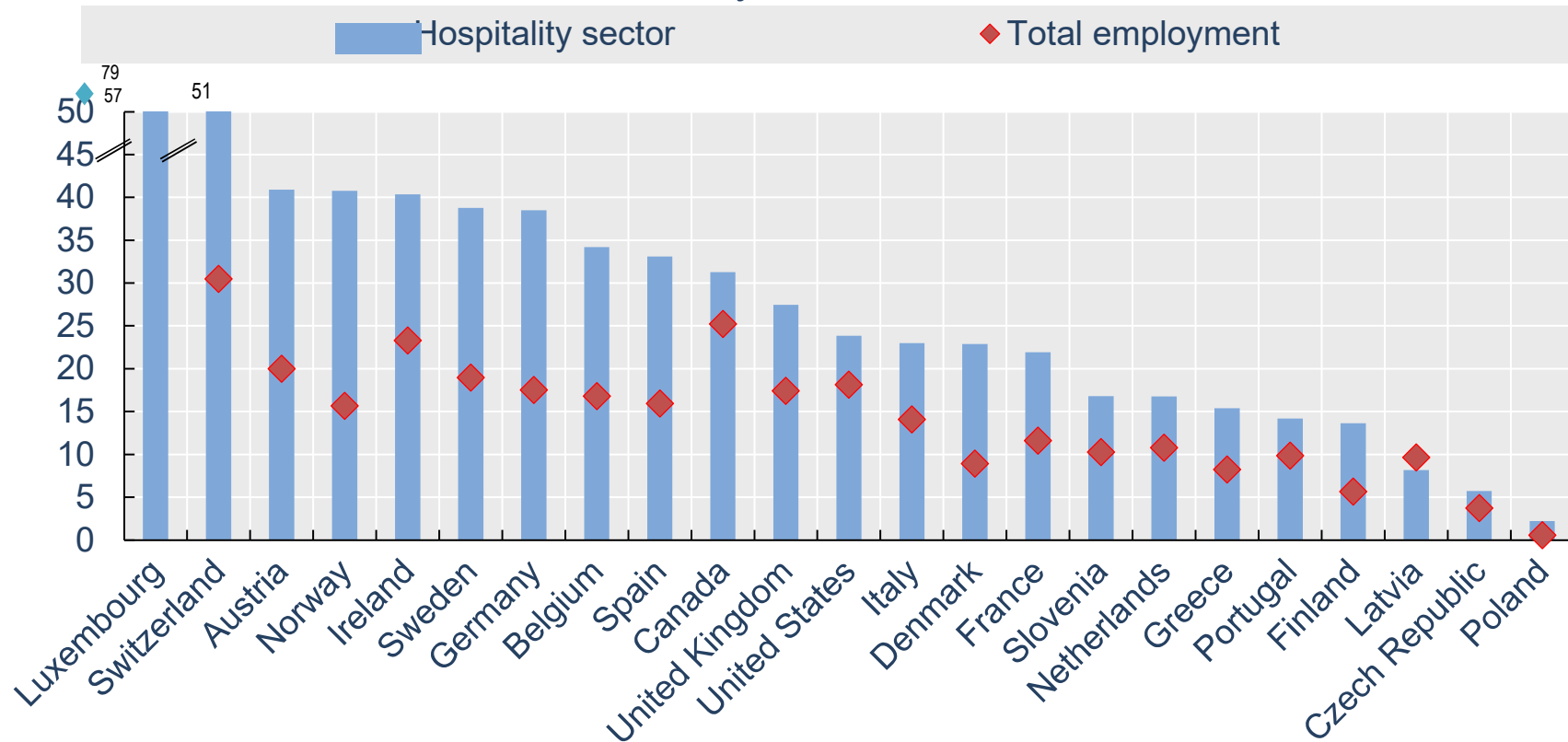
The employment rate of non EU migrant women dropped by more than 3 ppt between Q3 2019 and Q2 2020





## Example of the hospitality sector: 40% of all employed OECD-wide are migrants

Proportion of foreign-born among all employees and in the hospitality industry, 2016-18, in %

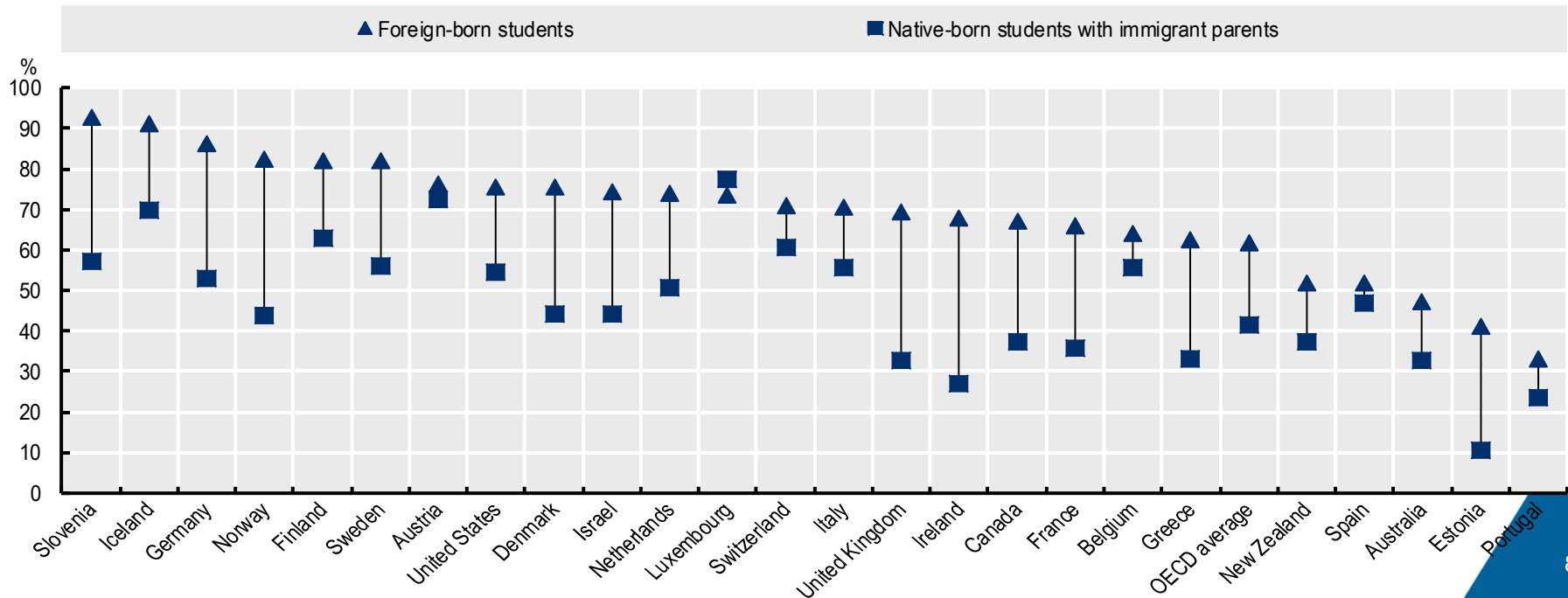




## School closures hit children of immigrants particularly hard

- Less access to quiet rooms
- Less access to computers
- Parents less able to support children's education at home because they cannot telework and because of lack of knowledge of the host-country education system and language

Percentage of students who do not speak the language of instruction at home, by immigrant background





## Conclusion

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- There is ample evidence that immigrants are particularly hard hit, both in terms of health and labour market outcomes
- Especially recently-arrived refugees and other disfavoured groups are hard-hit, putting the progress achieved in migrant integration over the past decade at risk
- Migrants are both «essential» and «particularly vulnerable», which makes the policy messaging difficult
- There is also high concern about the situation of migrant children, notably regarding schooling – here, socio-economic, area-specific, and migrant-specific disadvantage compounds



For more information on the work of the OECD  
in the areas of migration and integration

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[www.oecd.org/migration](http://www.oecd.org/migration)

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Have also a look at our Database of indicators on the  
integration of immigrants, covering 40+ countries:

<http://oe.cd/migrant-integration-indicators>