



Department of
Public Policy

CENTRAL
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY

About Migration: What we know and what we don't know

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HumMingBird, FUME, QuantMig

Brussels

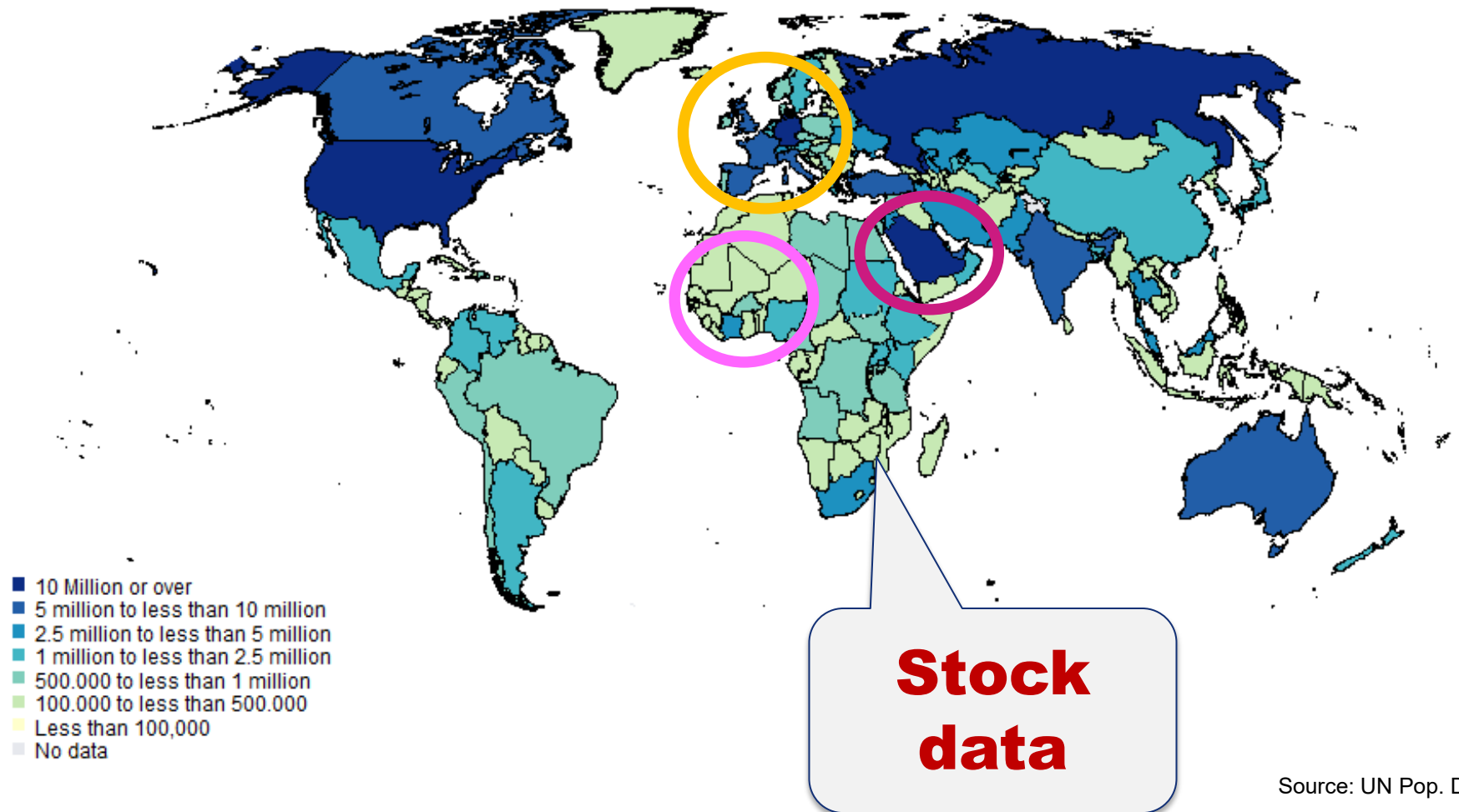
April 26, 2023



Stock of migrants

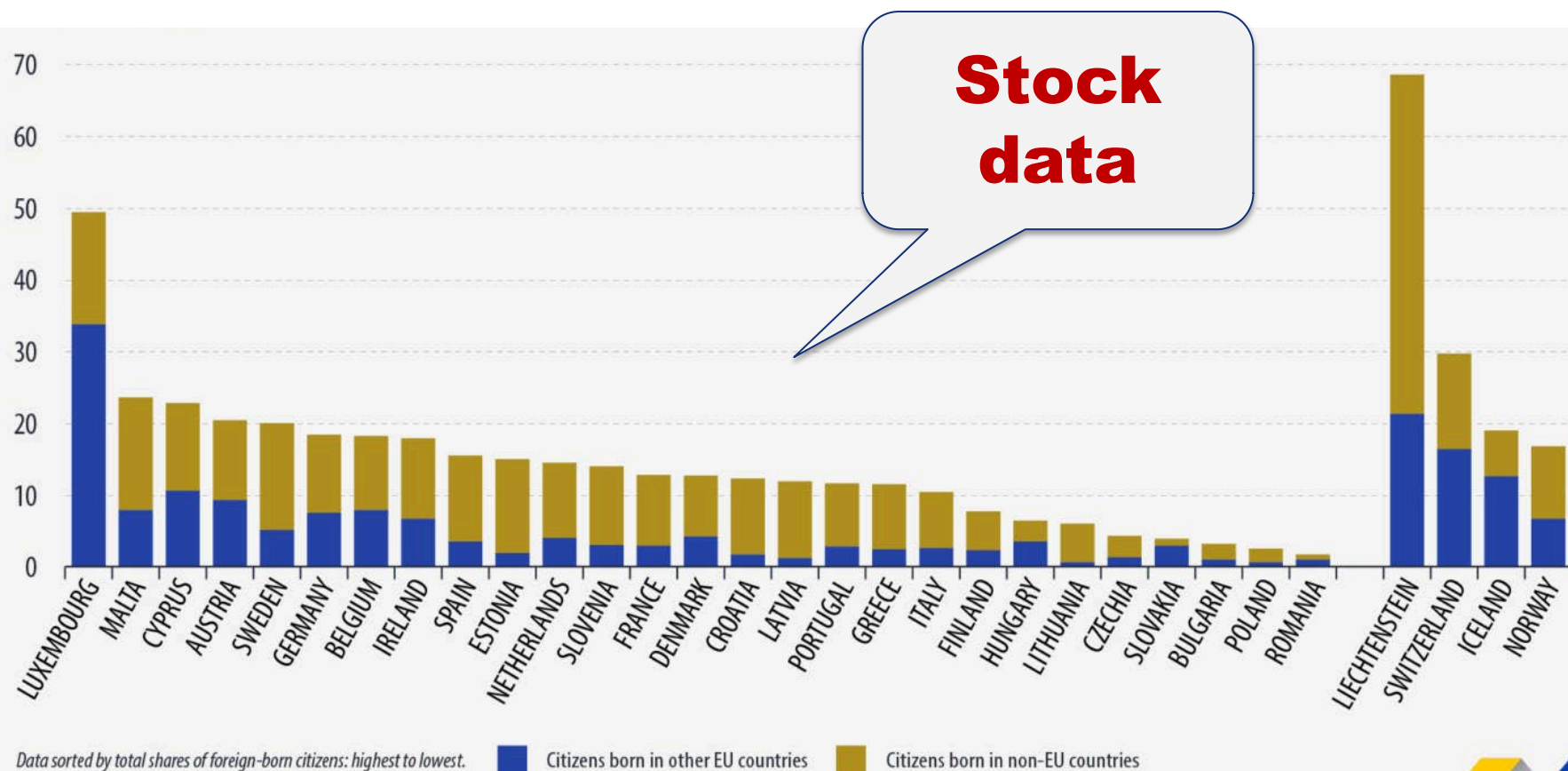
Migration: Europe in the world

International migrants by countries of destination, 2020
abs. numbers, in millions



Immigrants in Europe

Foreign-born population in EU and EFTA countries, Jan. 2022, in % of total population



Data sorted by total shares of foreign-born citizens: highest to lowest.

■ Citizens born in other EU countries

■ Citizens born in non-EU countries



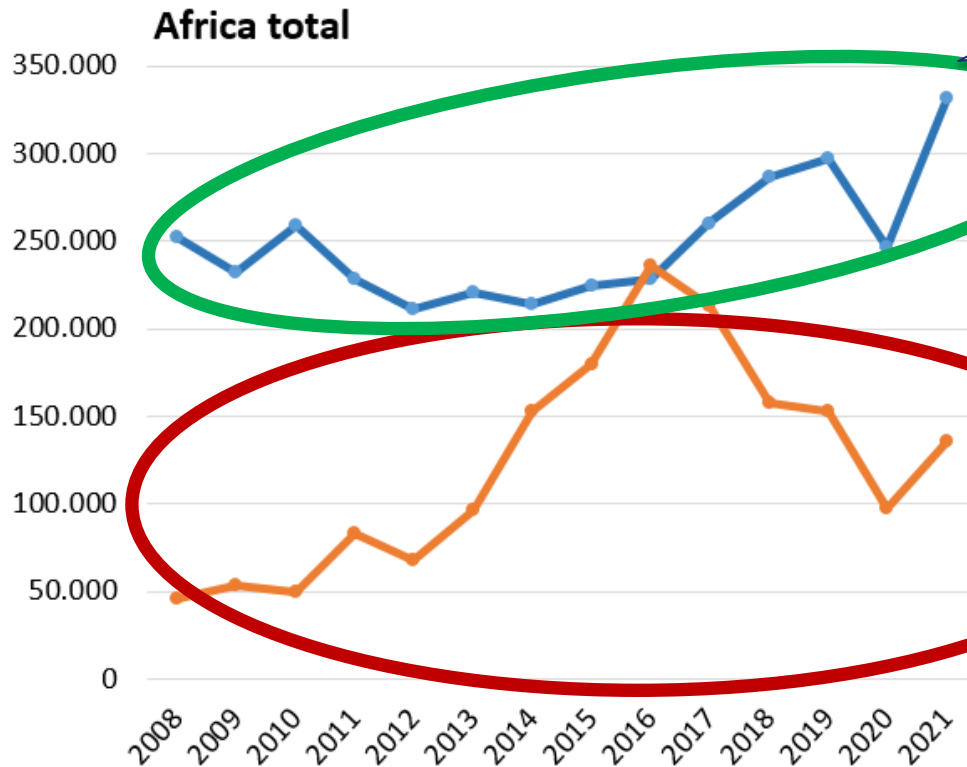
Flow of migrants?



Example:
**Migration from
Africa to Europe**

Total immigration of Africans to Europe

Regular immigration and asylum requests of African citizens in EU 27 Member States, 2008-2021



**That's
the
majority**

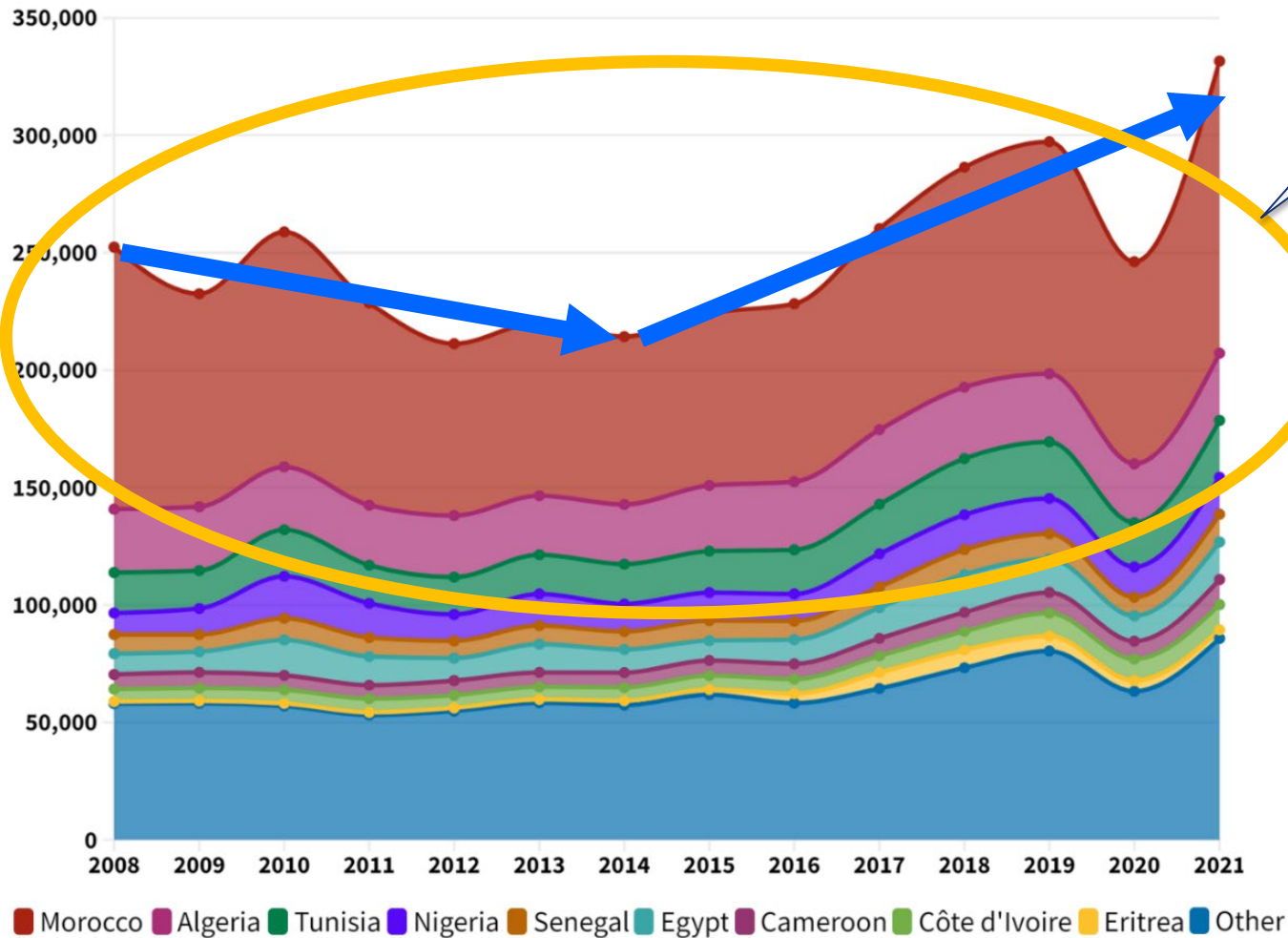
**That's in
the
spotlight**

■ Non-humanitarian first residence permits

■ Asylum seekers

Regular immigration of Africans to Europe

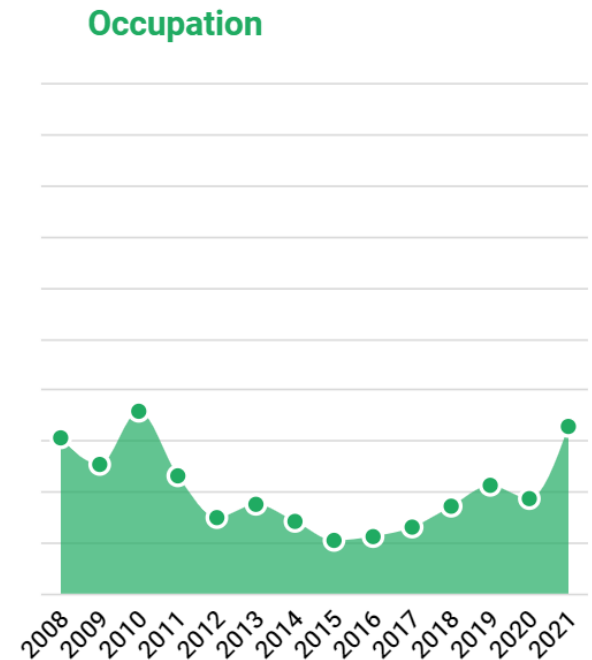
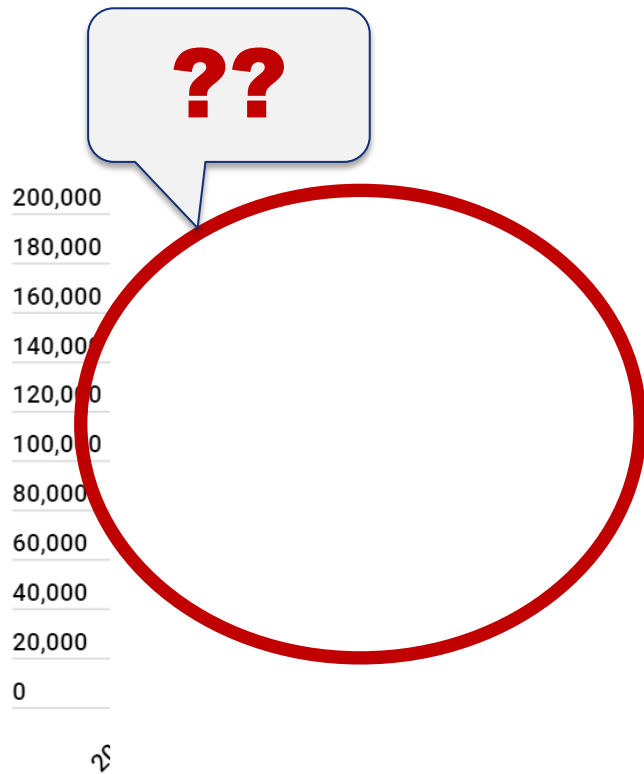
First residence permits issued by EU 27 Member States, 2008-2021



50% from North Africa

Regular immigration from Africa to Europe:

First residence permits by “gate of entry”, 2008-2021

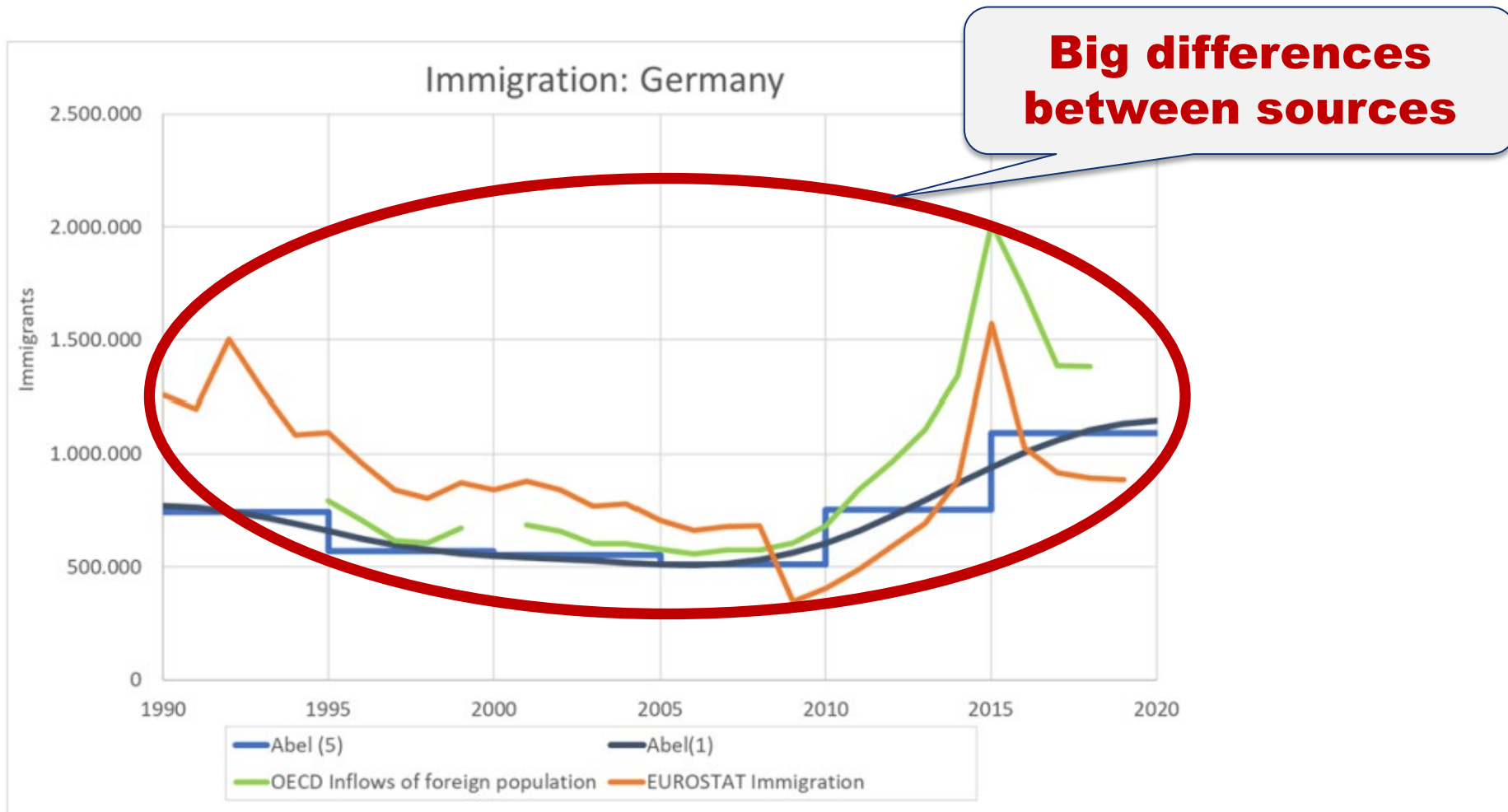


Source: Eurostat



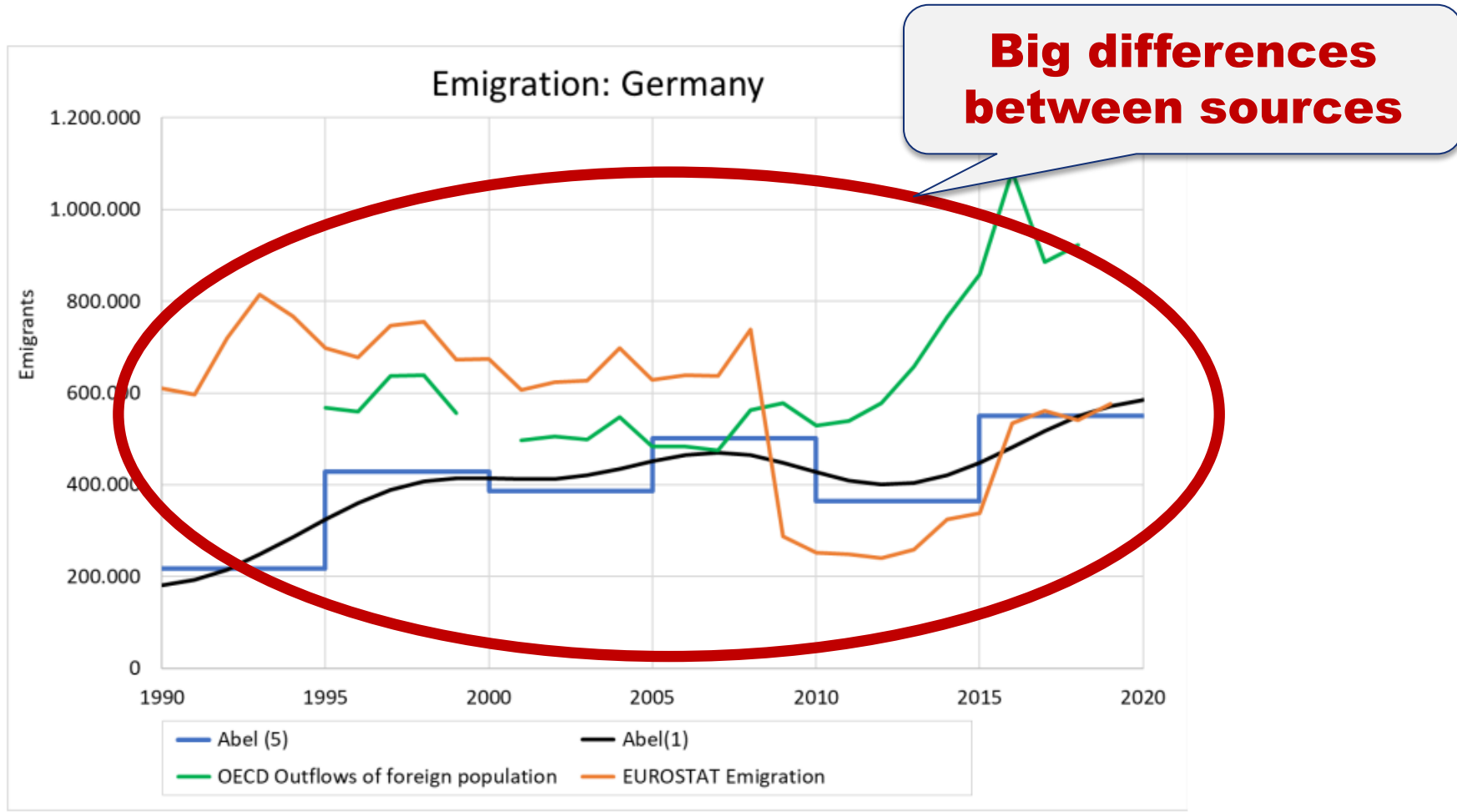
Data problems

Inconsistencies between data sources: Immigration to Germany, 1990-2020



Source: Abel 2021 based on UNDESA, EUROSTAT 2021 OECD 2021, Koeppen, Muenz, Buettner 2023

Inconsistencies between data sources: Emigration from Germany, 1990-2020



Source: Abel 2021 based on UNDESA, EUROSTAT 2021 OECD 2021, Koeppen, Muenz, Buettner 2023

Unrealistic results: Example

Calculated flows between India and Pakistan

Origin	Destination	Abel based on UN DESA					
		1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020
India	→ Pakistan	120.9111	470.576	717.358	38.2970	384.068	311.990
Pakistan	→ India	492.787	462.777	368.257	370.808	332.601	316.878

There is no migration flows between India and Pakistan since the 1960s

Source: Abel 2021 based on UN DESA, Koeppen, Muenz, Buettner 2023



How does the flow of migrants translate into a stock?

The number of international migrants (stock) has three different determinants



- The number of people leaving their countries of birth (voluntary/forced)
- The size of return migration
- Duration of stay influenced by (remaining) life expectancy of migrants in destination countries

Less well documented

Often overlooked + totally underresearched

Age at arrival and longevity matter



1938: 15

1975: 52

2021: 98





We know more about immigration than about emigration

The case of Austria

2021

Immigration: 154,000 people

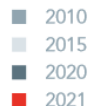
Emigration: 102,000 people

Net migration: +52,000

Austria: Immigration and Emigration by citizenship, 2010-2021

Immigration

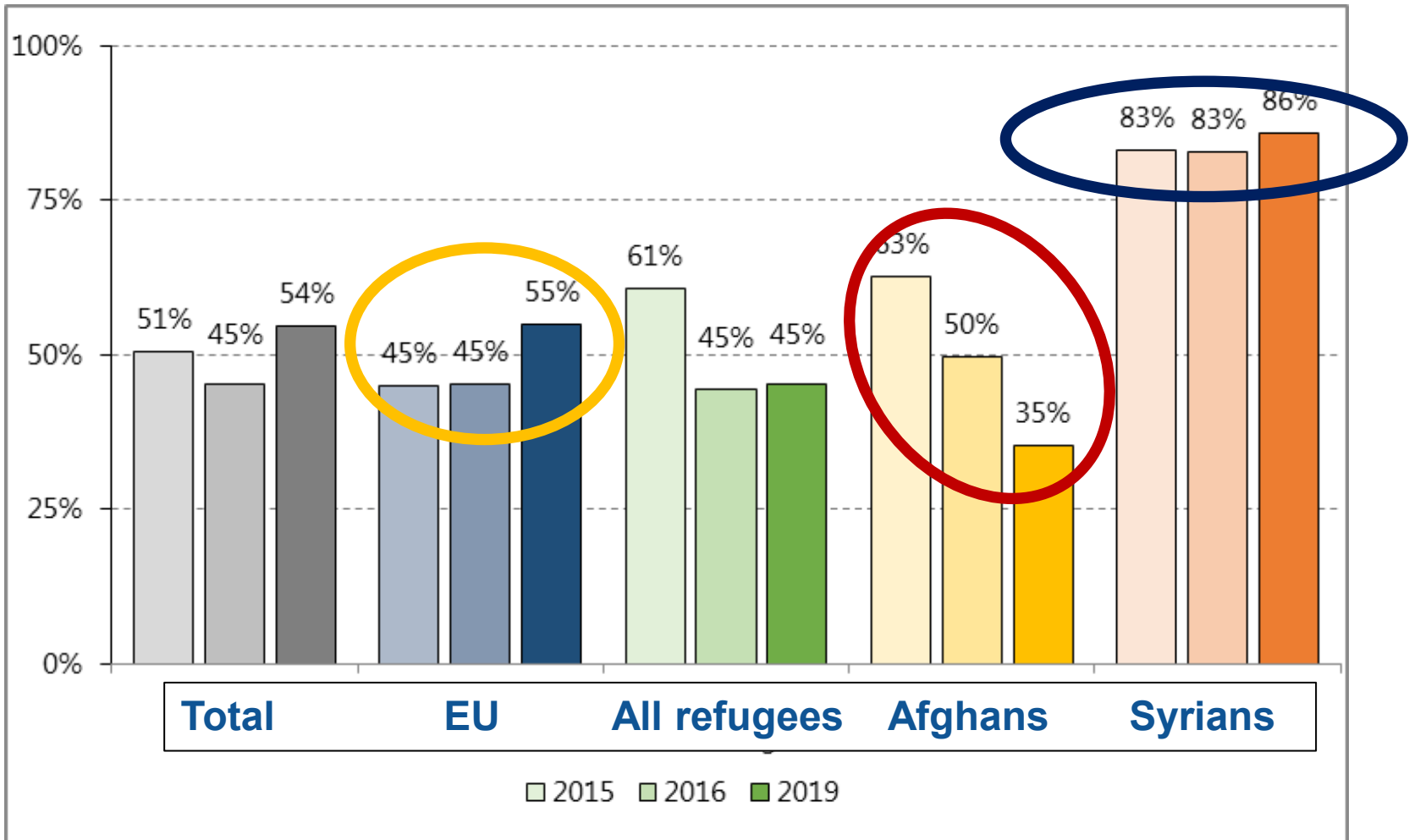
Emigration



Austria		15,795	-7,182	22,977	
		15,752	-5,450	21,202	
		15,032	-1,837	16,869	
		14,659	-2,481	17,140	
EU states before 2004/EFTA/GB/ assoc. small states		27,007	+10,071	16,936	
		31,175	+11,991	19,184	
		32,959	+13,248	19,711	
		33,276	+12,121	21,155	
EU accession states 2004		16,992	+4,721	12,271	
		31,922	+15,511	16,411	
		22,490	+6,096	16,394	
		21,513	+3,966	17,547	
EU accession states since 2007		16,359	+6,229	10,130	
		28,519	+14,010	14,509	
		29,077	+12,457	16,620	
		30,824	+11,373	19,451	
Former Yugoslavia (non-EU)		12,242	+2,828	9,414	
		16,652	+7,397	9,255	
		10,772	+3,024	7,748	
		11,520	+3,506	8,014	
Turkey		4,258	+1,121	3,137	
		3,653	+564	3,089	
		2,480	+254	2,226	
		3,075	+794	2,281	
Afghanistan/ Iraq/Syria		1,842	+1,307	535	
		52,491	+50,514	1,977	
		5,683	+3,346	2,337	
		16,238	+13,795	2,443	
Other		18,196	+2,221	15,975	
		34,246	+18,530	15,716	
		17,850	+3,476	14,374	
		23,097	+9,414	13,683	
Net total:		52,488	(+12,424, +31.0% vs. 2020)		

Remaining in Austria

Immigrants with residence permits in 2021 by origin and year of arrival (2015, 2016, 2019)



We do not know, how many people have experienced international migration during their life time



Why is international migration less well documented than vital statistics

1. Interest: For a long time demographers and statisticians had their main focus on births and deaths

2. Unlike births and deaths:

- Migration can be reversed
- Immigration is of much greater interest (and therefore better documented) than emigration

3. Part of the migrant population has no interest in being statistically or administratively fully „documented“

Irregular migrants, retired returnees, tax optimisers, expats

4. Main place of residence becomes a „blurred“ concept. A growing minority of people apparently live in more than one place (and is registered in more than one place)

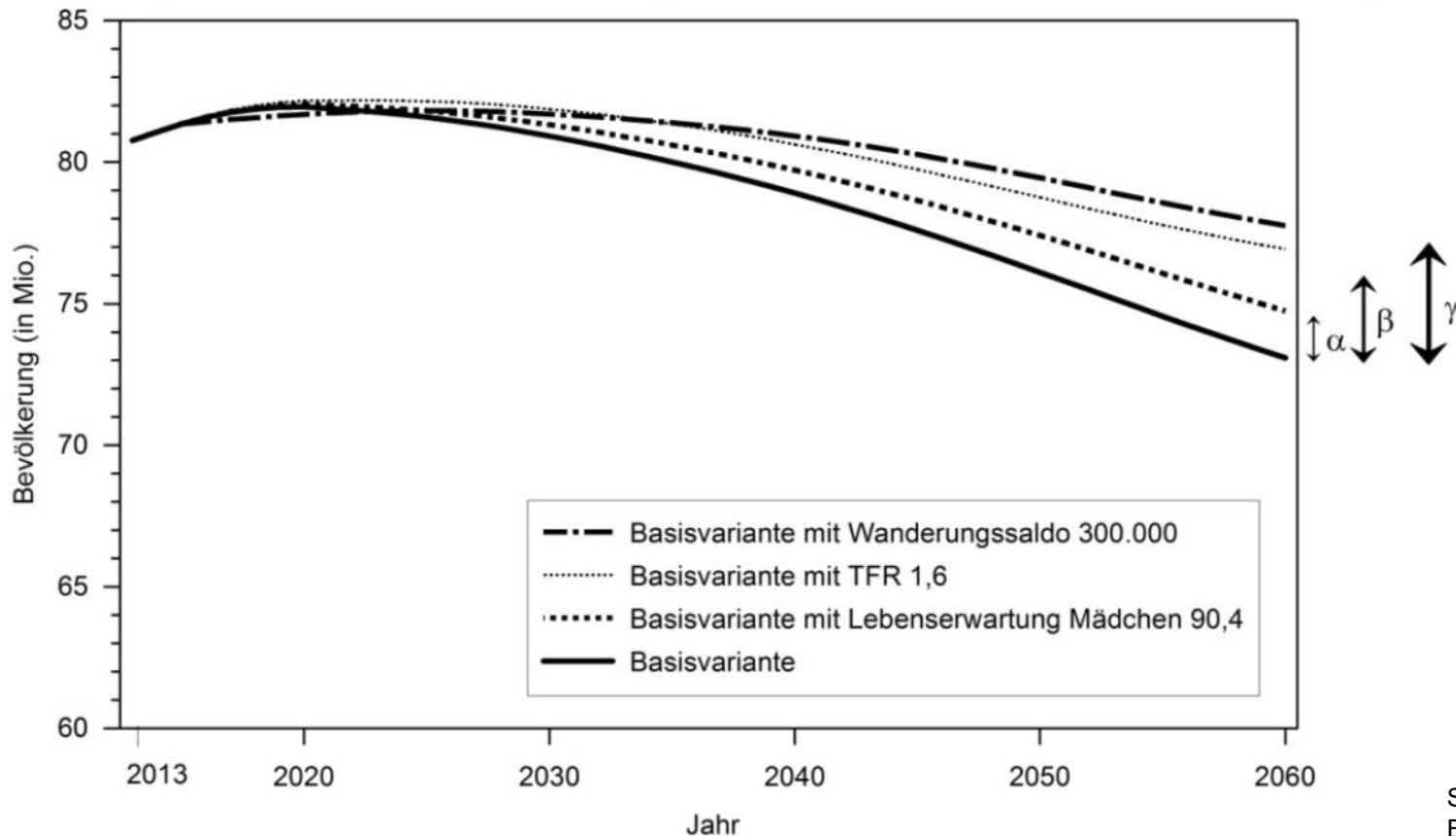
This makes the definition, measurement and analysis of migration more difficult



**Look into the
future**

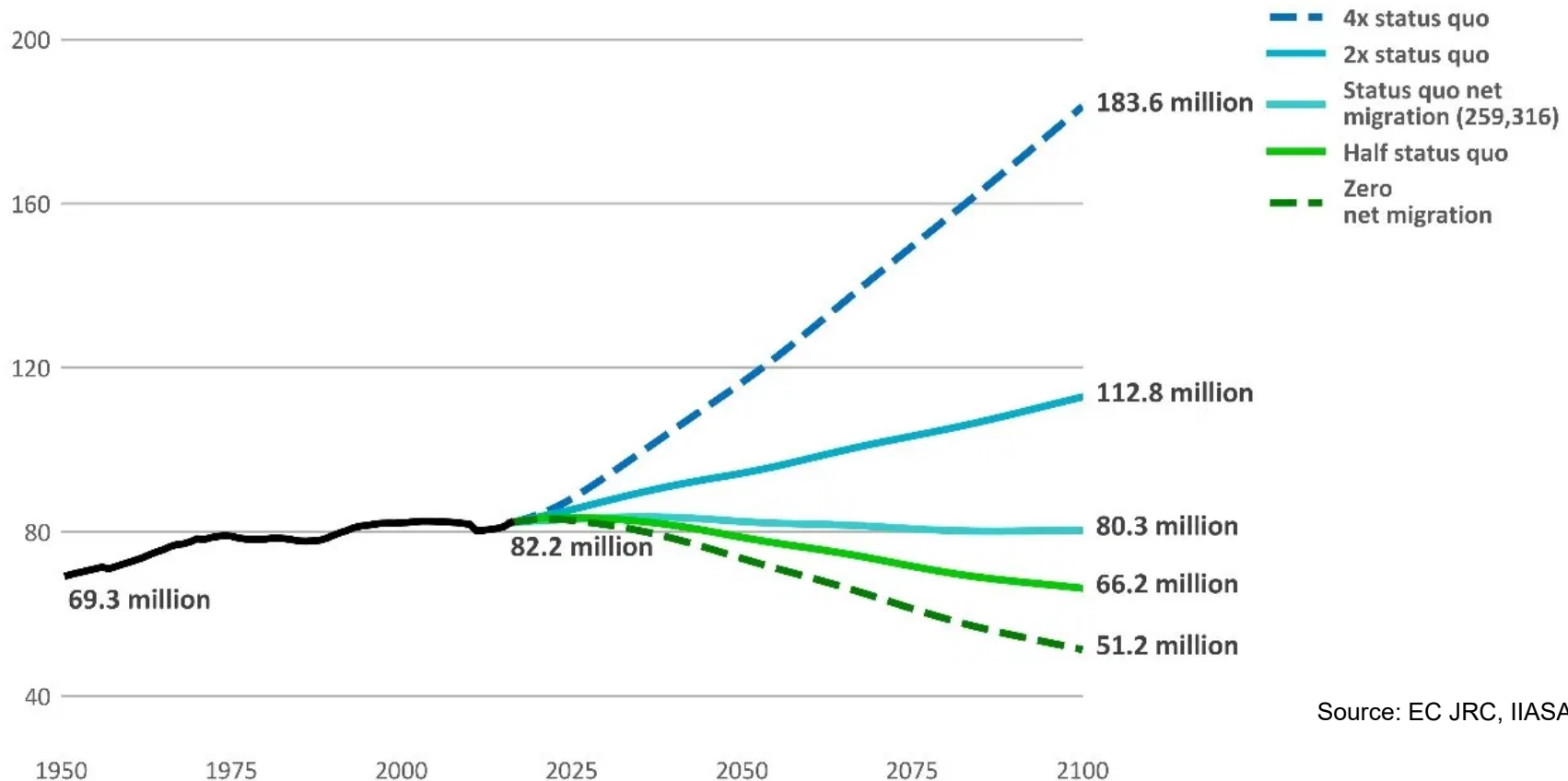
When it comes to migration, most quantitative forecasters make assumptions about net migration gains/losses, but not assumptions about gross inflows/outflows of migrants

Germany, projected total population, basic assumptions



When it comes to migration, most quantitative forecasters make assumptions about net migration gains/losses, but not assumptions about gross inflows/outflows of migrants

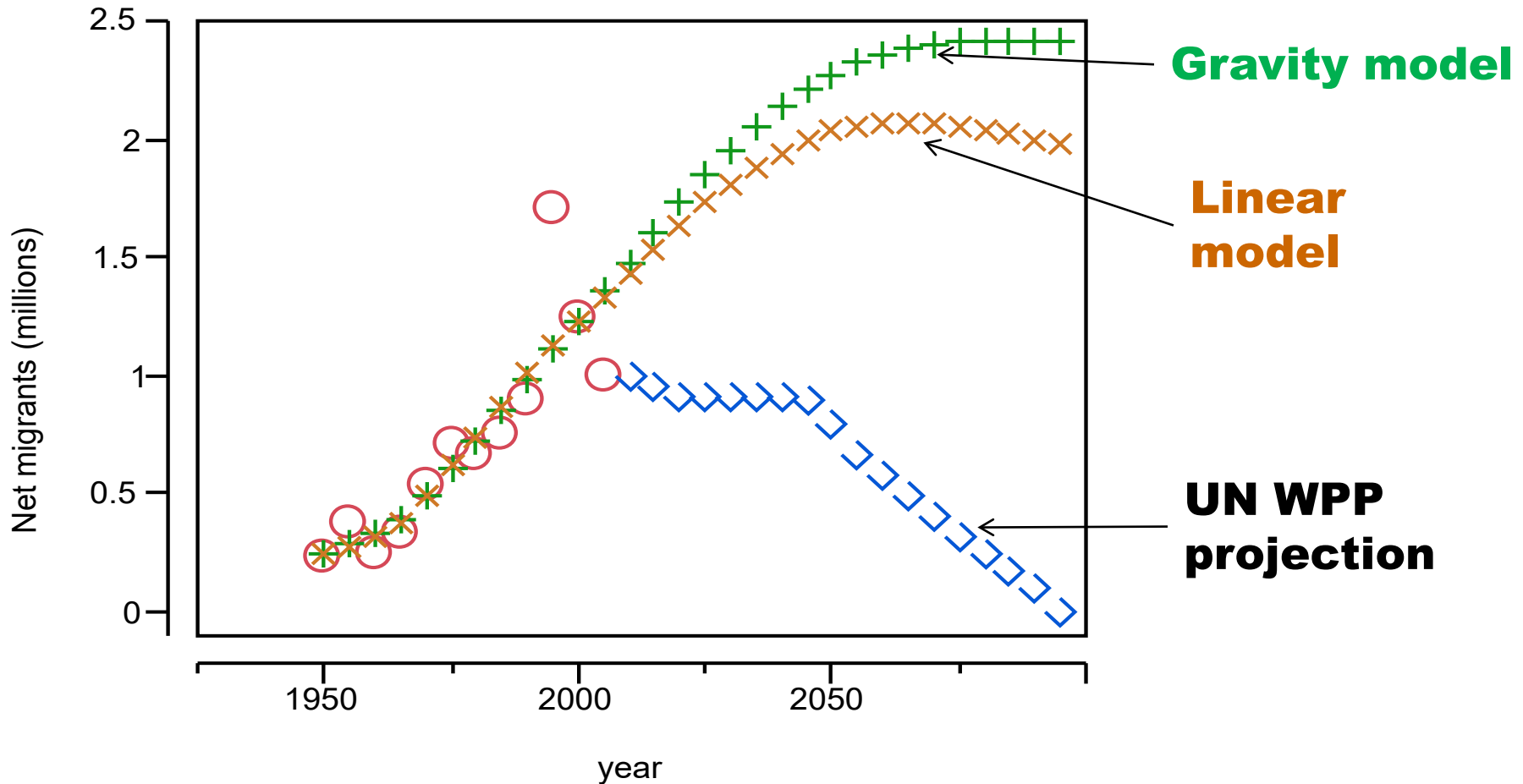
Germany Population Projections Under Five Migration Scenarios



Several population projections assume that annual volumes of (net) migration will decline in the future

Net migratory flows to the USA, 1950-2020 (actual), 2020-2100 (different projections)

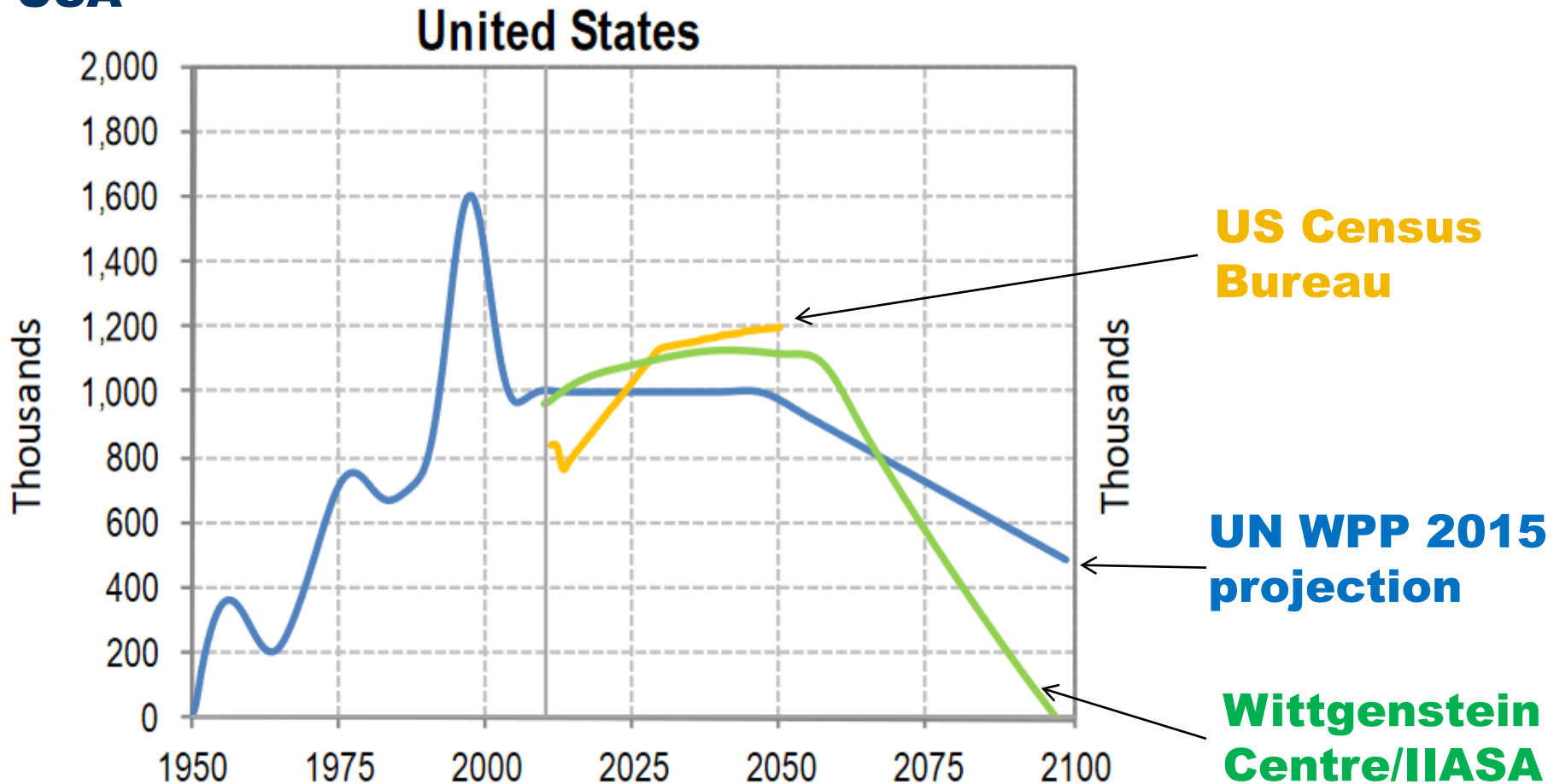
USA



Several population projections assume that annual volumes of migration will decline in the future

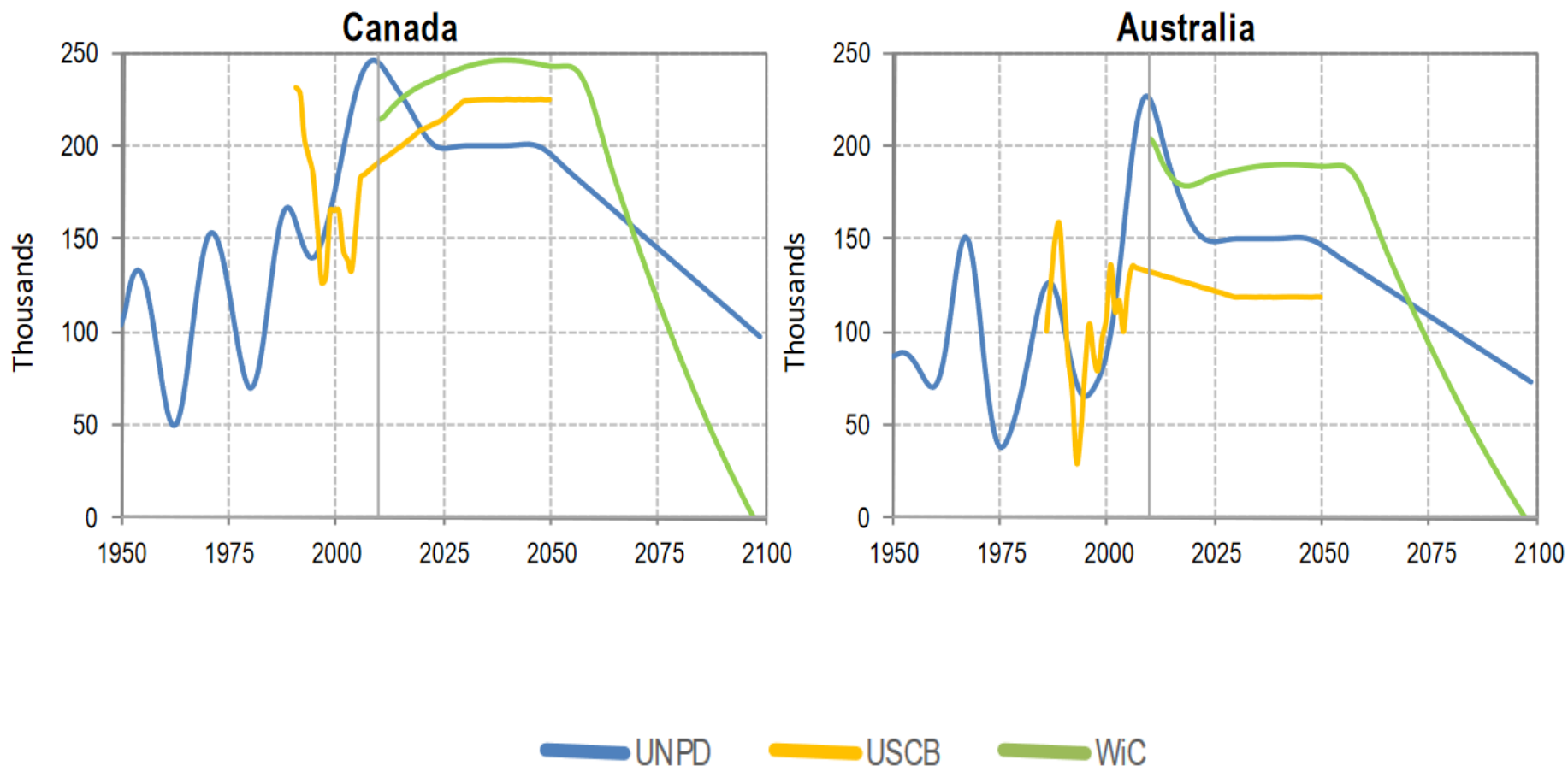
Net migratory flows to the USA, 1950-2015 (actual), 2015-2100 (different projections)

USA



Several population projections assume that annual volumes of migration will decline in the future

Net migratory flows to Canada and Australia, 1950-2015 (actual), 2015-2100 (different projections)



**A. Rogers 1990:
Requiem for the
net migrant**

**But the concept is still widely
used and net-migrants are
quite „alive“**



Way forward

We need to analyse, model and project immigration and emigration separately



Thank you

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