



Defining migratory status in the context of the 2030 Agenda

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Why define migratory status in the context of Agenda 2030?

- **Combat inequalities** within and among countries
- Shared prosperity and decent work **for all**
- Pledge that **no one will be left behind**
- Indicator 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, **migratory status**, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts



Outline

- Concepts and definitions related to migration
- Challenges in defining migratory status
- A proposal on priorities for global monitoring



Concepts related to international migration (1)

- An international migrant is “any person who changes his or her country of usual residence” (UN, 1998; UN,2017).
- “Place of usual residence”: apply a 12-month threshold (UN, 2015)
 - The place at which the person has lived continuously for **most of the last 12 months** (that is, for at least six months and one day), not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months;
 - The place at which the person has lived continuously for **at least the last 12 months**, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least 12 months.



Concepts related to international migration (2)

The most common groups of migrants (UN, 1998)

- Foreign-born persons: defined by country of birth
- Foreigners: defined by country of citizenship - the country an individual is a citizen of and with which the individual enjoys a particular legal bond, acquired by birth, naturalization, marriage or some other mechanism.

Core topics for population censuses (UN, 2015)

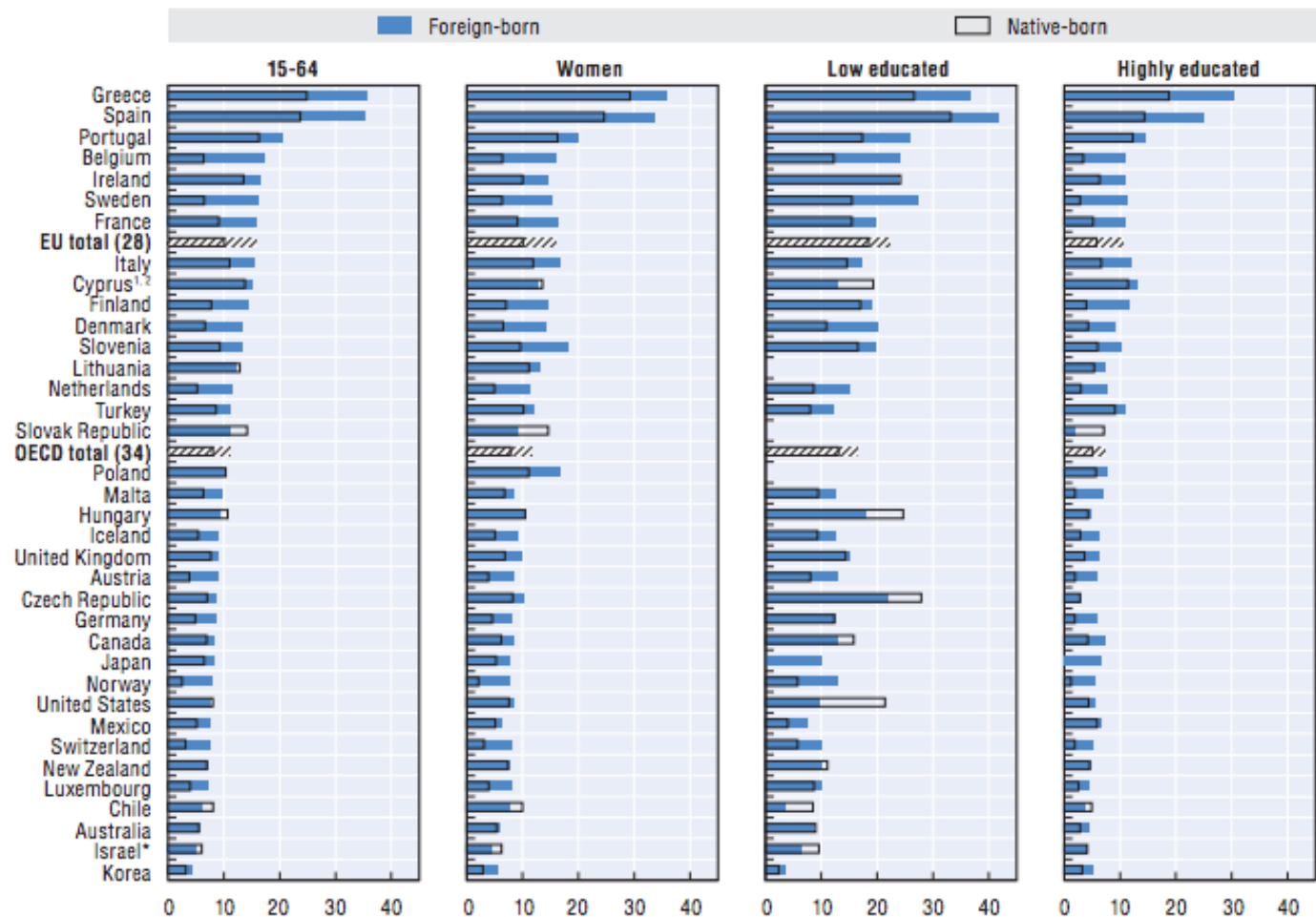
Most countries collect such information in their censuses



Inequality between foreign-born and native-born

Figure 5.7. **Unemployment rates by place of birth, gender, and level of education, 2012-13**

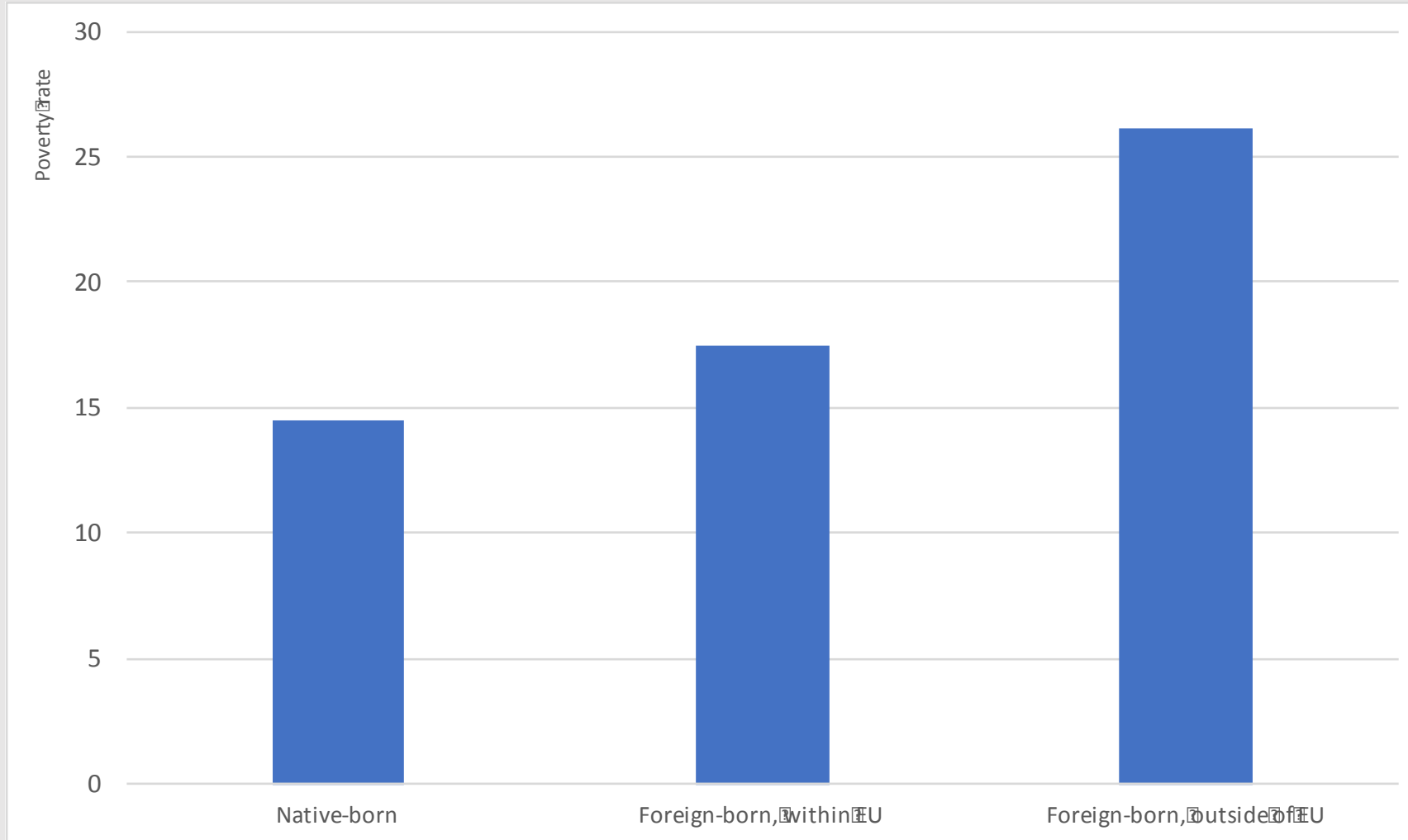
Percentages of the economically active population (15-64 years old)



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933212344>



Poverty rate by country of birth, UK, 2015



Source: Data collected through EU-SILC, extracted from Eurostat database



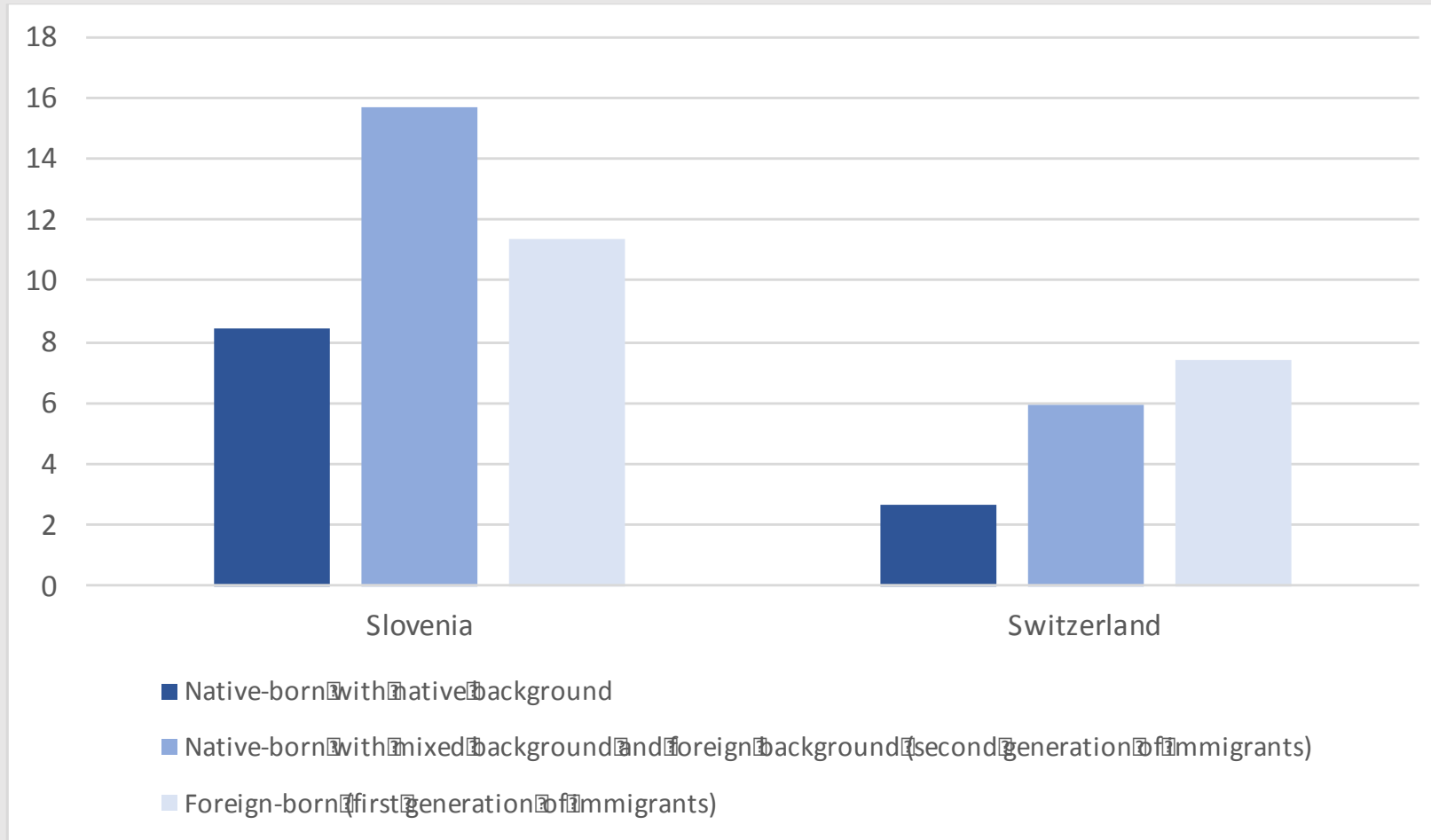
Concepts related to international migration (3)

Other groups related to international migration, defined by

- Country of birth of parents:
 - Native-born persons born to (at least one) native-born parents
 - Native-born persons born to parents who are both foreign-born (second generation)
 - Foreign-born persons (first generation)
- Duration of stay: more recent migrants vs long-term migrants



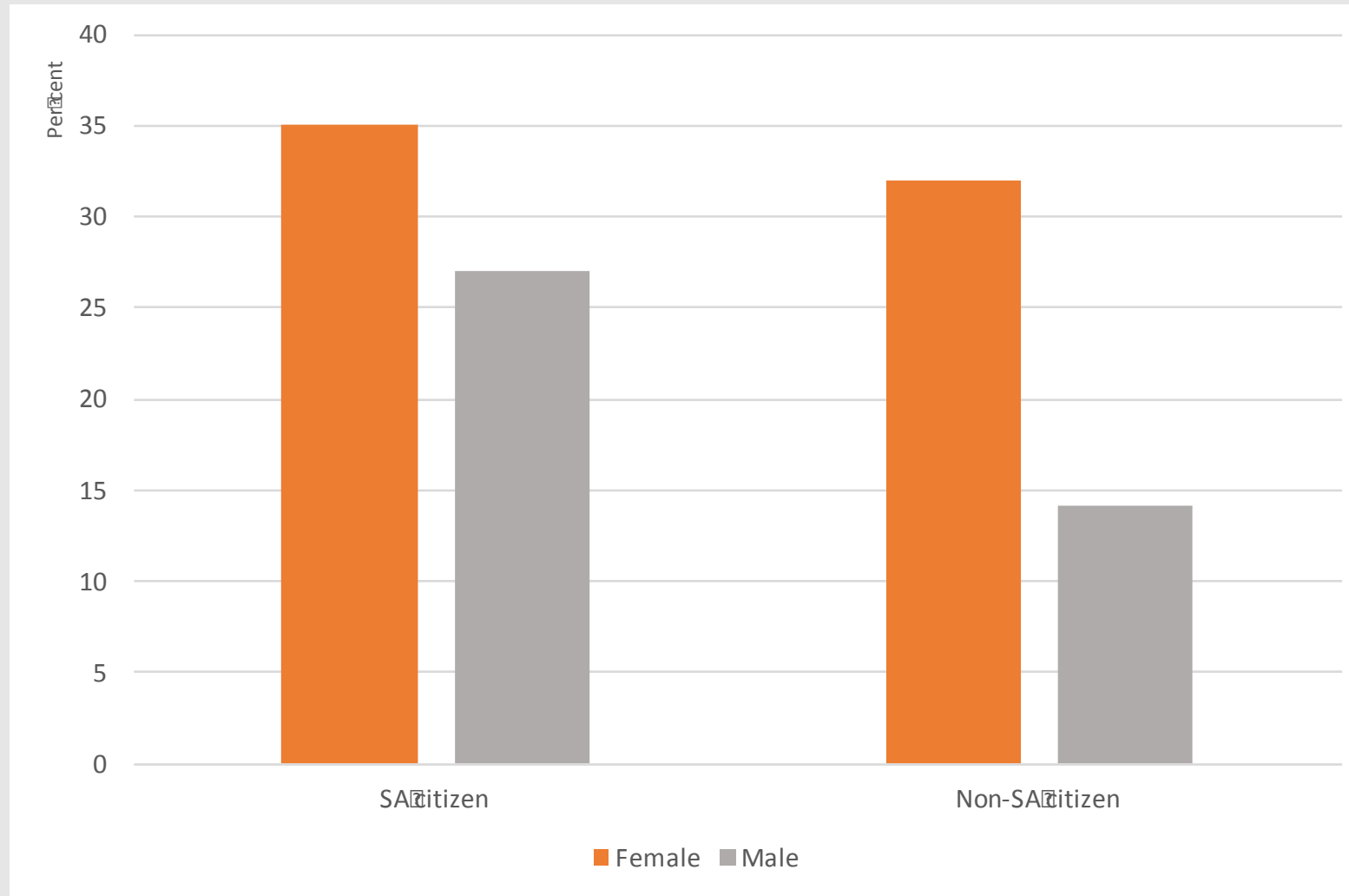
Unemployment rate by type of migrants, 2014



Source: EU-LFS 2014, extracted from Eurostat database



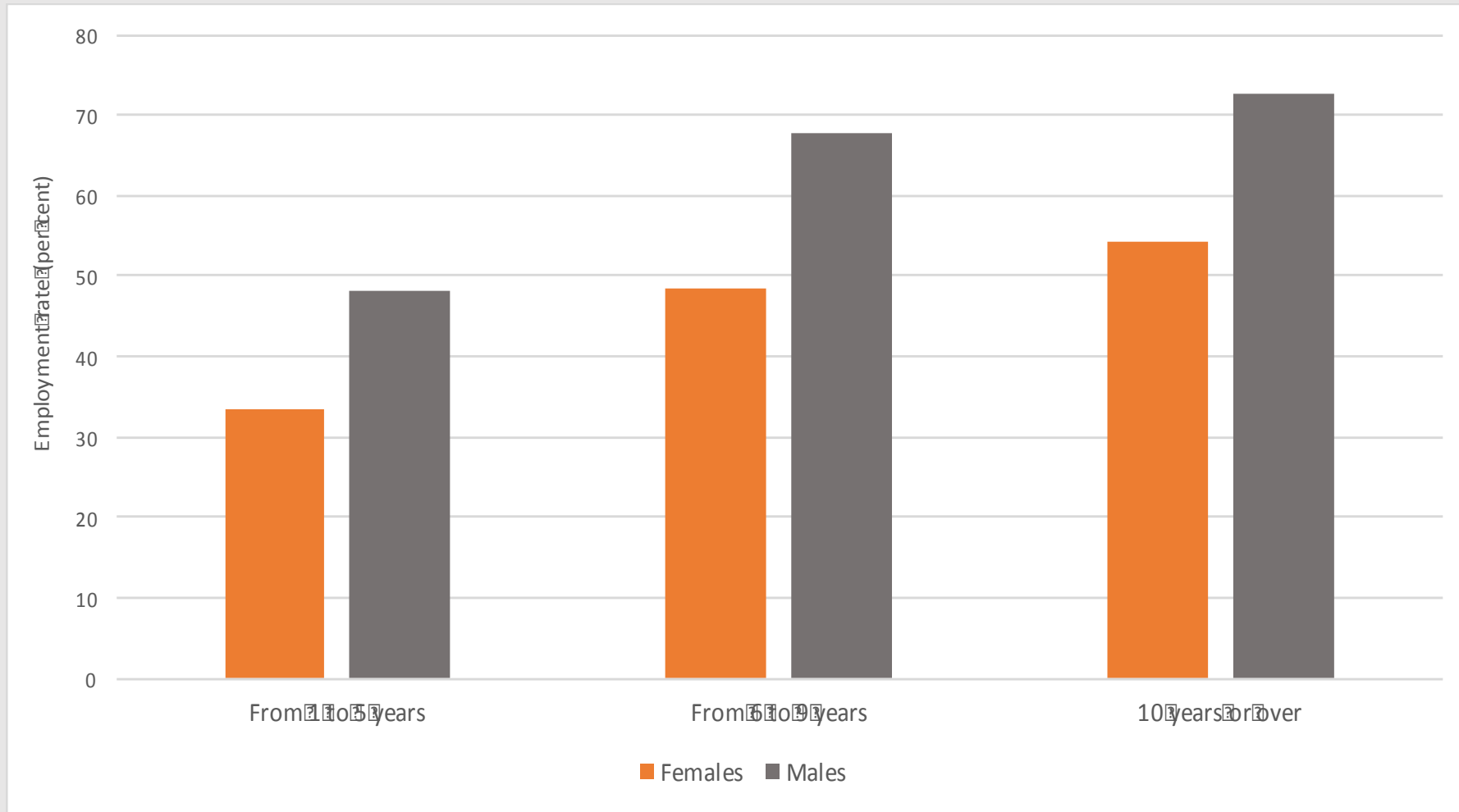
Unemployment rate, by citizenship status and sex, South Africa, 2011



Source: Statistics South Africa 2011 census online database



Employment ratio of foreign-born persons by duration of stay, Italy, 2014



Source: chart constructed using data from Eurostat database, Labour force survey 2014



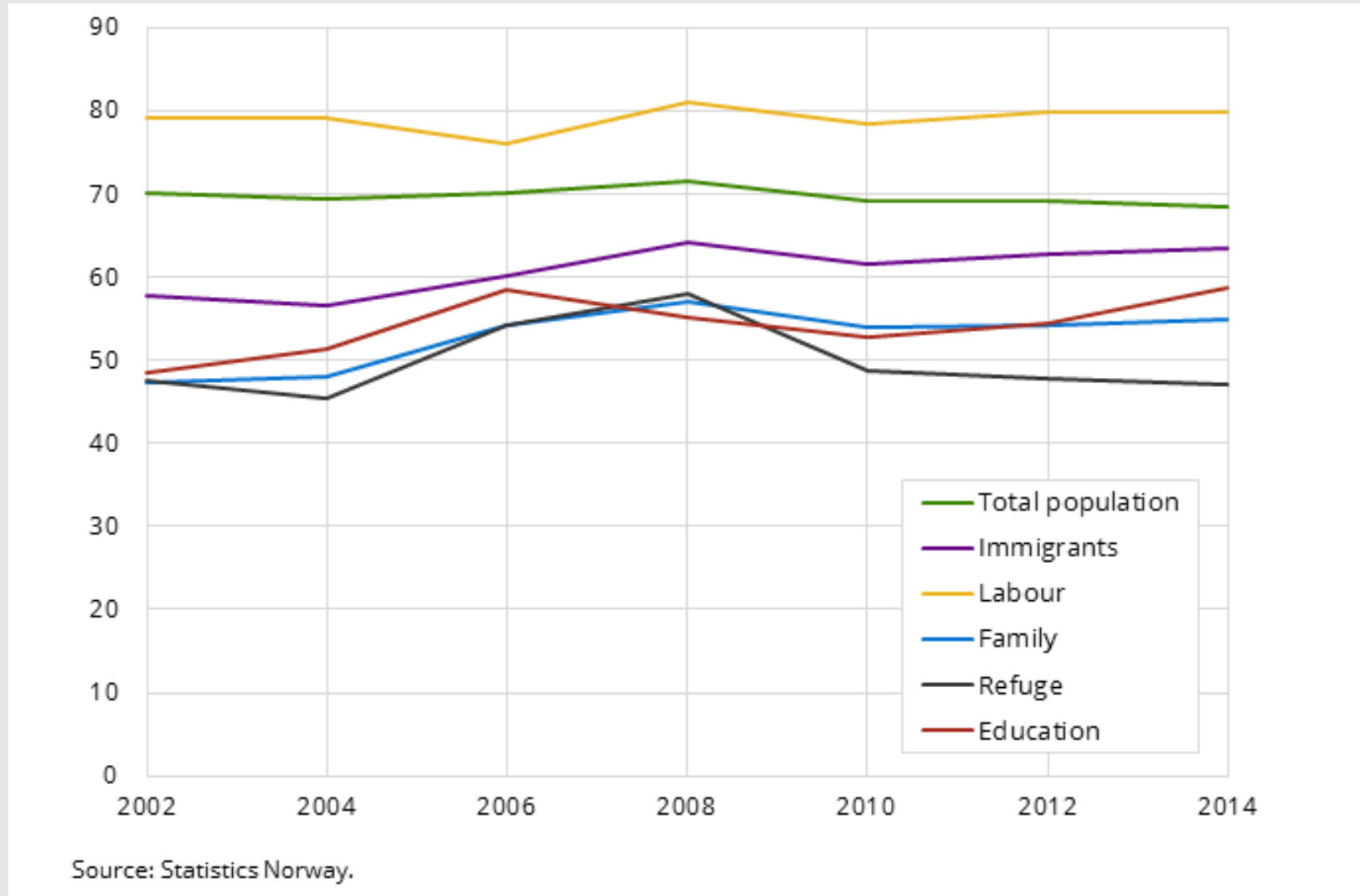
Concepts related to international migration (4)

Other groups related to international migration, defined by

- Reason for migration:
 - Labour migrants
 - Migrant students
 - People admitted for humanitarian reasons (ongoing work on statistical framework on persons seeking international protection)
 - Refugees
 - Asylum-seekers
 - Persons under temporary protected status
 - Persons admitted for other humanitarian reasons



Employment ratio by reason for migration, Norway





Concepts related to internal migration (1)

Internal migrant:

- An internal migrant is a person who has **changed his usual place of residence** from one **migration-defining area** to another (or who moved some specified minimum distance) at least once during the migration interval. (UN, 1970)
- “It agreed that, although internal migration was an extremely important phenomenon for most countries, having important demographic, economic and social consequences, the wide diversity of national needs and practices made it difficult to formulate recommendations on internal migration statistics currently.” (*UN Statistical Commission, 1976*)



Concepts related to internal migration (2)

Internally displaced persons (IDPs):

”For the purpose of these principles, IDPs are persons or groups of persons who have been **forced or obliged** to flee or to leave their homes or **places of habitual residence**, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of **armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters**, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border” (*Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998*).



Challenges in defining migratory status

- Balancing between a comprehensive conceptual framework and measurement limitations
 - Some concepts do not have internationally-agreed definitions
 - Not all data sources capture information to identify specific groups of migrants
 - Or not frequent enough – migration is only a special module included in surveys every X number of years
 - Capturing migrants through household surveys: insufficient sample size
- How to work with countries concerned with emigration?



A proposal on defining migratory status for global monitoring

A step-wise approach:

- Step 1: For all indicators that should be disaggregated by migratory status
 - Country of birth: including foreign-born and native born population
 - Country of citizenship: including foreigners (including stateless persons) and citizens
- Step 2: If there is a need to distinguish between first generation migrants and second generation migrants, then migratory status could be defined by
 - Country of birth of the person and country of birth of the parents: foreign-born persons, native-born persons with both parents born abroad and native-born persons with at least one parent born in the country
- Step 3: Other disaggregation dimensions:
 - Refugees and asylum seekers
 - Internal migrants
 - Internally displaced persons (IDPs)