Co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals

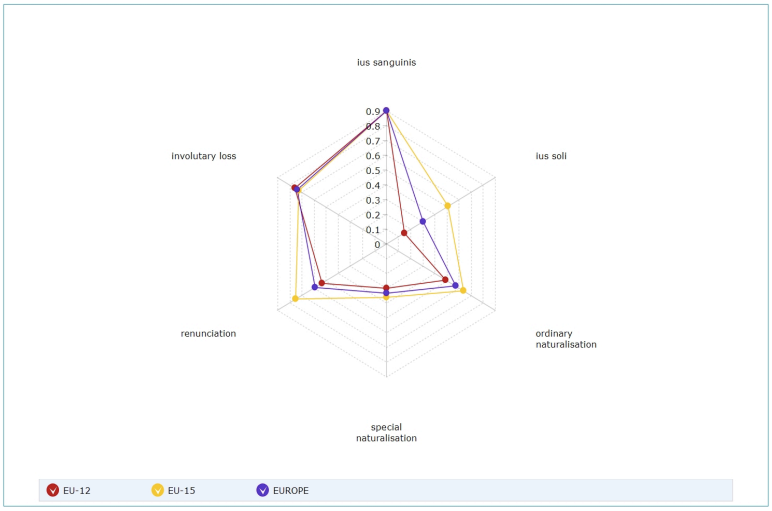
ACIT
Access to citizenship and its impact on immigrant integration

In its 18-month programme, ACIT has developed four sets of citizenship indicators on citizenship laws, their implementation, rates of citizenship acquisition and its impact on integration in all 27 EU Member States and accession candidate and EEA countries (Croatia, Iceland, FYROM Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland, and Turkey). The results are available online for policy makers, academic researchers and NGOs through interactive graphic tools and downloadable datasets. We highlight a few findings below.

1. Citizenship Law Indicators (CITLAW) measure the degree of inclusion and freedom of choice for the target groups of legal provisions regulating acquisition or loss of citizenship status.

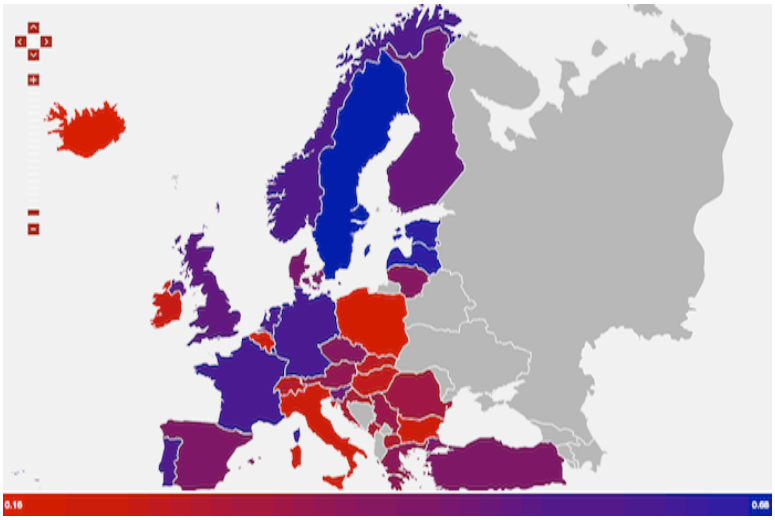
Strong differences between citizenship laws in pre 2004 EU-15 states, post 2004 EU-12 accession states and non-EU states with regard to:

- ius soli
- residence-based ordinary naturalisation
- the freedom to renounce citizenship

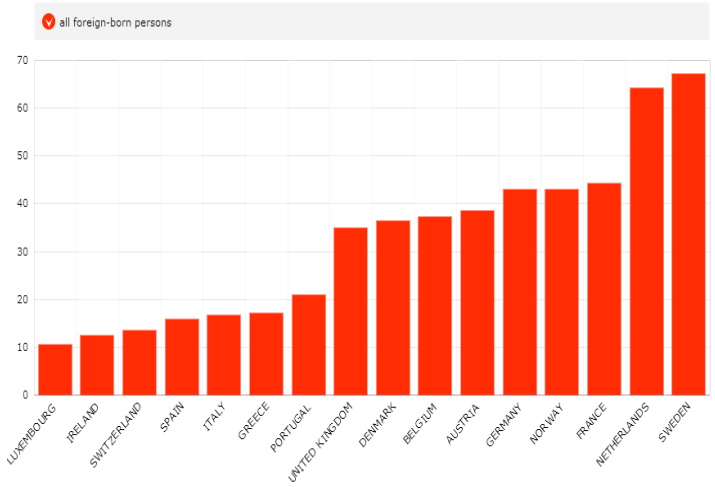


2. Implementation Indicators (CITIMP)

The implementation indicators measure the formal aspects of the ordinary naturalisation procedure, from beginning to end. A country's overall CITIMP score is calculated as the simple average of these five dimensions: Promotion, Documentation, Discretion, Bureaucracy, and Review. Based on a 0 to 1 scale (from red to blue), countries with scores closer to 1 create fewer obstacles in the implementation of naturalisation law.

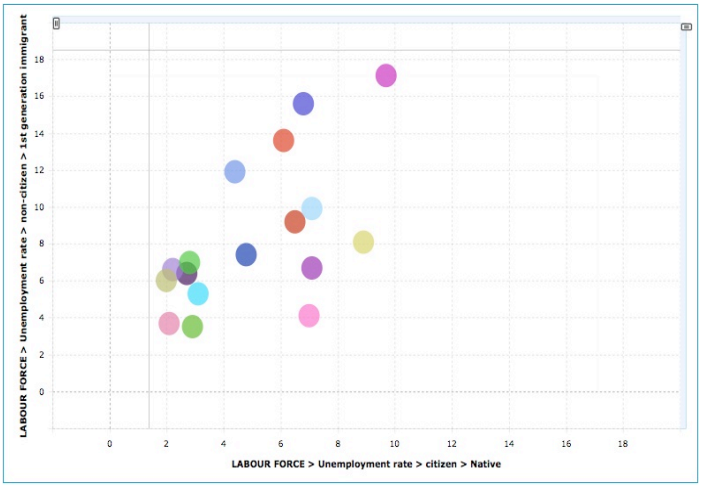


3. Acquisition Indicators (CITACQ) compare percentages of citizenship acquisition among foreign-born persons in their country of residence, as well as the number of years it takes on average to acquire citizenship.



- Citizenship acquisition rates among foreign-born persons in EU-15, Switzerland and Norway vary greatly in (2008).
- Rates are lowest in Luxembourg (10%) and highest in Sweden (67%). On average around 34% of foreign-born persons are citizens of their country of residence.
- Immigrants from non-EU countries (42%) more often acquire citizenship than those from EU countries (20%).
- In the EU-15 states, it takes on average it takes around 10 years for foreign-born persons to acquire citizenship of their country of residence.
- Data quality is not of sufficient to investigate in detail acquisition rates in EU-12 countries due to small samples of immigrants in surveys.

4. Integration Indicators (CITINT) compare labour force participation and socio-economic status of native citizens, naturalised citizens and non-citizens based on the 2008 Labour Force Survey and EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions.



- Immigrants in Europe are more economically active than natives, but are also more likely to be unemployed or overqualified for their jobs.
- Immigrants in Europe have a higher risk of social exclusion than natives: immigrants have more difficulty meeting household expenses, live in poorer quality housing, and spend a larger share of their monthly income on housing costs.
- Citizenship matters: for most indicators, the gaps between natives and naturalised immigrants are smaller than the gaps between non-citizens and natives.
- Region of origin is also an important factor for integration: for many indicators, non-citizen migrants from within the EU are better off than migrants from outside the EU who have naturalised.

The ACIT indicators are part of the **EUDO CITIZENSHIP Comparative Dataset on Citizenship in Europe** which comprises other general databases.

- national citizenship laws
- citizenship case law
- international legal norms
- modes of acquisition and modes of loss of citizenship
- protection against statelessness
- citizenship statistics
- citizenship bibliography