

Immigrant Integration in Federal and Decentralised states. Which Challenges?

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Introduction

- Immigration and immigrant integration, an increasingly salient issue in Europe.
- Who manages migration and integration?
 - From a nation-state prerogative to a situation of multi-level governance
 - Dispersion of authority downwards (**regions** & cities), upwards (EU), outwards (NGO's and for-profit private actors)

Challenges on integration in federal and decentralised states

(in all federal and decentralised states)

1. **The competency allocation:** who decides and who does?

- Regions are only partially competent
- Conflicts appear, coordination is needed
- Policy divergence as a consequence of devolution

(in multinational states)

2. **Competing nation-building projects**

Challenge 1: The Competency Allocation



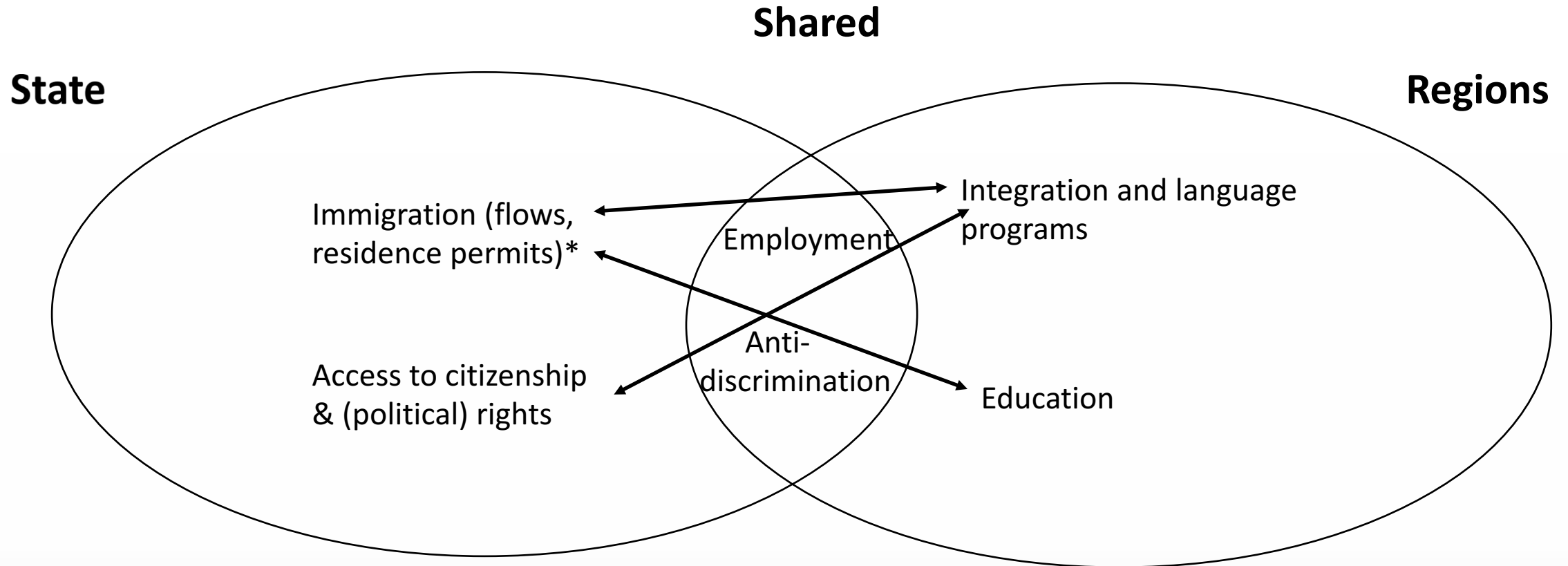
Who has jurisdiction on integration?

Before answering this question, **how do we define integration policies?**

- **Integration, a contested term**
- **Foster equality** between immigrants and natives
- **In all societal domains**, mainly: socio-economic (education, work), political (access to citizenship, voting rights, political participation) and cultural (assimilationism or multiculturalism)
- **A two-way process**: targeting immigrants and natives
- **Multi-level and cross-sectoral** policy area

Country	Level	Immigr.	Reception	Employm.	Educat.	Access to cit.	Anti-discrim
Belgium	Central state	L+A		L+A		L+A	L+A
	Regions	*	L+A	L+A	L+A		L+A
Canada	Central State	L+A	L+A	L+A		L+A	L+A
	Regions (Queb.)	L+A*		L+A	L+A		L+A
UK	Central state	L+A	L+A	L+A	L+A	L+A	L+A
	Regions		*	L+A		A	L+A
Spain	Central state	L+A	L+A	L	L+A	L+A	L+A
	Regions (Cat.)	*	L+A	L+A	L+A		L+A
Germany	Central state	L+A	L+A	L+A	L	L	L+A
	Regions	A	A		L+A	A	L+A
Italy	Central State	L+A	L+A	L+A	L+A	L+A	L+A
	Ord. Regions Spec. Regions	A* L+A	L+A L+A	L+A L+A	A		L+A L+A

Who has jurisdiction on integration in Belgium?



Consequences of this division of competencies

- Because of interdependence, **regions are only partially autonomous**
 - Even when full legislative and administrative autonomy
- **Coordination** is needed
- Multi-level **conflicts** are part of the game
 - Not only with substate nations, also with ordinary regions
 - with ordinary regions, most often cases of party incongruence
- **Policy divergence**



Challenge 2: Competing nation-building projects



Including immigrants to foster the Scottish nation-building project



Integration as a challenge for

- **Challenges for sub-state nationalists:** the 'legitimation paradox' (Adam, 2013)
 - **Including** immigrants might reduce the cultural homogeneity legitimising autonomy claims (Gagnon and Iacovino, 2000)
 - **Excluding** immigrants can discredit the nation-building project, seen as intolerant and illiberal (Kymlicka, 1996)
- **Challenges for all:**
 - wherein should the migrant integrate, in the state-nation or in the sub-state nation, conflicting messages

Seen the challenges of integration for sub-state nations, what regional policy to expect?

- Are substate nations' policies more inclusive or exclusive; more multiculturalist or assimilationist?
 - No, as diverse as state policies
- **What distinguishes the integration policies of substate nations?**
 - More interventionist on the (cultural dimension of) integration
 - 'Different' than the state or dominant ordinary region

Seen the challenges of integration for sub-state nations, what regional policy to expect?

- **What explains the features of ii policies in sub-state nations?**
 - Only partial evidence
 - Contextual factors: economy, demography, language
 - Ideas: conceptions of the nation, left-right wing
 - Institutions: degree of autonomy, party systems
- **Most relevant explanation:** 'being different + being legitimate' (nation-building interests) (Adam, forthcoming)

Do competing nation-building projects impact integration outcomes?

- **Up to date, only very little evidence available**
- **Limited evidence on less engagement in the political community:** belong less to the state, less to the substate (Canada, Belgium)
 - ‘Confronted by a conflict that is not their own, they seem to withdraw, feel less attached, less identified with the political communities of the country to which they have come’ (Banting and Kymlicka, 2012: 11)
 - Belgian Moroccans feel more Moroccan and less Belgian in Flanders than in Wallonia and Brussels (Torrekens and Adam, 2015)

Thanks for your attention!

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More information:

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