Benefit and methodology of online surveys among labour migrants, EU Blue Card holders in Germany

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Research field III: Economic Aspects of Migration

German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
Structure

1. Use and benefit of statistical knowledge of migration
2. Register data in Germany
3. Research project – survey among EU Blue Card holders
4. (Dis-) Advantages of online surveys
5. Summary
1. Use and benefit of statistical knowledge of migration

History of net migration to Germany

Source: Federal Statistical Office
1. Use and benefit of statistical knowledge of migration
Political and economic frame

- Recruitment 1955-1968
- Building of Berlin wall 1961
- Recruitment ban 1973
- Assistaences for return 1983
- German Reunification 1990
- Asylum compromise 1993

Economic downturns

Source: Federal Statistical Office
Situation and perspectives in Germany

- ageing population
- birth rate: 1.4 children per woman
- working-age population is shrinking

- In the long run, increasing demand for skilled employees

**Internal options:** better education, increasing number of women and older people working

**External options:** recruiting qualified immigrants
  - from other EU countries (similar demography)
  - in the long run, more third-country nationals
1. Use and benefit of statistical knowledge of migration

Demographic change, need for skilled migrants

**Labour force until 2050: demographic scenario:**
constant labour participation, no migration

- Basis: Scenario with increasing number of women and older people in workplaces

**With increasing number of women and older people in workplaces**

- Basis: Scenario increasing number of women and older people in workplaces

**With net migration p.a. of 200,000 migrants**

**With net migration p.a. of 300,000 migrants**
1. Use and benefit of statistical knowledge of migration

Unemployment rates according to education levels

- **Tertiary education**
  - OECD: 5.0%
  - Germany: 2.4%

- **Upper secondary education**
  - OECD: 7.7%
  - Germany: 5.3%

- **Less than upper secondary education**
  - OECD: 13.4%
  - Germany: 12.8%

Source: OECD Employment Outlook 2014, German Microcensus
2. Register data
Migration from third countries to Germany, 2013

362,984 immigrants from third countries
- 27,120 Russia
- 24,203 Serbia
- 19,256 Turkey
- 19,106 China
- 18,419 Syria
- 18,157 USA
- 17,630 India

3.3% Permanent
28.6% Humanitarian
15.4% Family
9.3% Labour
14.3% Education (university / vocational)
29.1% Other

Source: Central Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany, 2013

* Darunter fallen u.a. Personen, die einen Aufenthaltstitel beantragt haben.
Quelle: Ausländerzentralregister
## 2. Register data
**EU Blue Card holders in Germany, 31/01/2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>4,440</td>
<td>88.2 %</td>
<td>11.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,883</td>
<td>65.3 %</td>
<td>34.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,621</td>
<td>65.8 %</td>
<td>34.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1,076</td>
<td>69.0 %</td>
<td>31.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1,041</td>
<td>75.3 %</td>
<td>24.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>91.3 %</td>
<td>8.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>77.0 %</td>
<td>23.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>92.5 %</td>
<td>7.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>64.0 %</td>
<td>36.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>70.7 %</td>
<td>29.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>73.7 %</td>
<td>26.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>75.8 %</td>
<td>24.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>92.7 %</td>
<td>7.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>79.6 %</td>
<td>20.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,010</strong></td>
<td><strong>76.6 %</strong></td>
<td><strong>23.4 %</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Central Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany, 31/01/2015
EU Blue Card is available in Germany since August 2012.

Requirements:
• university degree that is comparable to a German university degree
• binding job offer that will provide annual gross earnings of at least
  48,400 Euro - in standard professions
  37,752 Euro - in “shortage of labour” professions (ISCO 21, 221, 25)

➤ initially temporary residence permit for up to four years
➤ settlement permit after 33 months
  (with good knowledge of German language: after 21 months)
# International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

## 21 Science and engineering professionals
- 211 Physical and earth science professionals
- 212 Mathematicians, actuaries and statisticians
- 213 Life science professionals
- 214 Engineering professionals
- 215 Electrotechnology engineers
- 216 Architects, planners, surveyors and designers

## 22 Health professionals
- 221 Medical doctors

## 25 Information and communications technology professionals
- 251 Software and applications developers and analysts
- 252 Database and network professionals

**Note: EU Blue Card**
2. Register data
Family members of Blue Card holders in Germany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>Husbands</th>
<th>Wives</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>427</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,789</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,465</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Central Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany, 31/01/2015
2. Register data
EU Blue Card holders in Germany, 31/12/2014

Former residence status of EU Blue Card holders

- New arrivals: 47.3%
- Labour migrants: 23.4%
- Education: 24.1%
- Other: 5.2%

Total number: 20,421

Source: Central Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany, 31/12/2014
3. Research: survey among EU Blue Card holders
What we don’t know from register data

- Socioeconomic characteristics (education, qualification, work status)
- Language skills and use
- Job search and professional work experience:
  - Experience prior to migration to Germany
  - Getting in contact with German employers
  - Application procedure, recognition of qualifications
  - Current employment situation, characteristics of company/work place
  - Satisfaction with employment conditions and salary
- Experience and intentions to migrate and to stay in Germany/in another EU country, as well as family situation
- Satisfaction with migration and residence policies in Germany
The research project serves to obtain information on EU Blue Card holders in Germany, their professional qualifications and work situation, their motives for immigration and intention to remain in Germany, as well as on the situation of their family members.

To this aim, a representative online survey was conducted in autumn 2014. Questionnaire in English and German.

Results are expected to be published at the beginning of 2016.

www.bamf.de
3. Research: survey among EU Blue Card holders

Target group: current and former EU Blue Card holders residing in Germany

- **Central Register of Foreign Nationals:**
  - 16,150 persons with an EU Blue Card
  - 1,850 persons with a settlement permit subsequent to Blue Card

- Researchers of the **German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees** are authorized to ask local Foreigner’s Authorities for the addresses – use is restricted to research objectives.

- More than 15,500 persons invited to participate
- **Online survey: 4,340 answers** returned adequately
- Response rate: almost 28%
One precondition for the issuance of the EU Blue Card is a university degree. When was the date of your latest graduation (incl. doctorate)?

Month (January=01) 07
Year 2013

Please state your highest university degrees which you obtained in the respective countries!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In my country of origin</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Germany</td>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In another country</td>
<td>Please choose…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double degree obtained in an international programme</td>
<td>Please choose…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: https://bamf.umfragen.de
4. (Dis-) Advantages of online surveys

Advantages

• Self-administered, computerized, easily distributed and interactive
• Open source software (ex: LimeSurvey, Unipark, SoSci) available
• Useful tools: types of questions (drop-down, check box, matrix, area for comments); conditions; graphics and multimedia; switch to other language
• No paperwork: easy to handle for participants, responses are immediately added to the data set – easy to analyze for researchers
• Short invitation letter (or email, if addresses are available) with login key and link (or QR code) to access the survey

Disadvantages

• Online survey depends on technical infrastructure (server, penetration test), internet access and common use, willingness to participate online
• Refusal when privacy statement is not trustworthy
5. Summary

- Due to demographic change and low unemployment rates of academics and skilled labour: need for skilled immigrants in Germany
- Legal amendments liberalized labour migration, but it still counts just for 10% of immigration to Germany
- EU Blue Card is main residence title for high-skilled immigrants
- Online Survey – representative data for further research focusing on migration and labour market integration of the high-skilled
- Further surveys planned: among family members; skilled labour migrants
- Literature:
  Mick P. Couper: Designing effective web surveys. Cambridge University Press
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Email: Elisa.Hanganu@bamf.bund.de
Internet: http://www.bamf.de/research
Welcome to Germany

Migration to Germany
- Entry rules
- Subsequent entry of families & spouses
- Working in Germany
- Studying and education
- Asylum and refugee protection
- The reception procedure for Syria
- Ethic German resettlers
- Jewish immigrants

Welcome to Germany
- Residence in Germany
- Learning German
- Local integration projects
- Information and advice
- Education
- Work and career
- Living in Germany
- Children and family
- Health and preventive healthcare

Welcome in Germany

Working in Germany
Anyone coming from a third country and wishing to work in Germany needs a residence title for work purposes. The type of residence title is determined by the skills and abilities that are contributed.

Integration courses – what are they?
If you would like to live in Germany, you should learn German and some important things about the country. The integration course can help you achieve this aim.

Recognition of foreign professional qualifications
If you gained your professional qualifications outside Germany and would like to use it in the German labour market then the Federal Office will be happy to advise you.

Do you need help?
- How to find personal advice near you
- Advice centres

Hotlines
2. Legal modifications in German migration law
Since 2012

Federal Recognition Act
• standardizes evaluation of foreign professional / vocational qualifications
• For more than 600 professions
• www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de (information tool in 8 languages)

Two residence titles for job seekers
1) for graduates of German universities:
   Residence period of 18 months (any employment possible)
   to find a job appropriate to academic degree

2) for any other university graduate (no matter whether s/he has been
   working in Germany or applied from outside):
   6 months (requirement: enough money to live on without employment)
Experts with vocational qualifications - requirements:

- binding job offer
- significant shortage of skilled workers in the intended profession
  - shortage list: generated by Federal Employment Agency on the basis of job vacancies, unemployment rates, forecasts, survey results)
  - no labour market test
- vocational qualification that is recognized in Germany
- working conditions equivalent to comparable German workers (no annual minimum salary)
  - initially temporary residence title with the possibility of extension
  - after 5 years, possibility to apply for a permanent residence permit
Residence title for subsequent immigration of family members, without requirements of German language skills, and access to employment.

EU Blue Card entitles the holders to spend visa-free periods of up to 90 days within a 180-days period in other Schengen States for the purpose of tourism.

They can enter another EU Member State without a visa after 18 months and apply for the EU Blue Card of that Member State within a period of one month. Same applies to family members.

Holders of an EU Blue Card and their family members are permitted to stay in a non-EU country for up to 12 consecutive months without their residence title expiring.
2. Legal modifications in German migration law
EU Blue Card (cont.)

Change of job during first two years of employment requires approval of the immigration authority (current minimum gross salary must be met).

Any highly-qualified employment can be taken up subsequent to this period of two years. Self-employment is not permitted with an EU Blue Card, but application for an appropriate residence title is possible.

Loss of a job has to be notified at the immigration authority, residence title is still valid but might be limited for a certain employment search period (taking entitlements to unemployment benefits into account).
2. Register data
EU Blue Cards issued 08/2012 - 12/2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>1,648</td>
<td>2,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>1,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,467</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,601</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,663</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Central Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany, 31/01/2015
2. Register data
Settlement permits subsequent to EU Blue Cards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>86.7 %</td>
<td>13.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>65.1 %</td>
<td>34.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>62.9 %</td>
<td>37.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>65.4 %</td>
<td>34.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>69.7 %</td>
<td>30.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>95.7 %</td>
<td>4.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>75.8 %</td>
<td>24.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>94.6 %</td>
<td>5.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>61.6 %</td>
<td>38.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>73.5 %</td>
<td>26.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>73.3 %</td>
<td>26.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>81.3 %</td>
<td>18.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>92.3 %</td>
<td>7.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>90.6 %</td>
<td>9.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,048</strong></td>
<td><strong>77.4 %</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.6 %</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Central Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany, 31/01/2015
2. Register data
EU Blue Card holders in German federal states

Hamburg
BC 4.0% / Pop. 2.1%

Lower Saxony, Bremen
BC 9.3% / Pop. 10.1%

North-Rhine Westphalia
BC 18.6% / Pop. 21.9%

Hesse
BC 8.6% / Pop. 7.4%

Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland
BC 4.3% / Pop. 6.1%

Baden-Württemberg
BC 14.0% / Pop. 12.4%

Schleswig-Holstein
BC 1.1% / Pop. 3.3%

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
BC 0.7% / Pop. 2.2%

Berlin
BC 8.0% / Pop. 4.3%

Brandenburg
BC 0.7% / Pop. 3.3%

Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia
BC 5.4% / Pop. 12.3%

Bavaria
BC 25.3% / Pop. 14.4%

Source: Central Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany, 31/01/2015; BC=EU Blue Card, Pop.=Population
## 2. Register data

**Migration flows to Germany: Different groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>EU-internal migrants</th>
<th>Family migrants</th>
<th>Ethnic Germans ('Spätaus-siedler')</th>
<th>Jewish migrants</th>
<th>Asylum seekers</th>
<th>Seasonal workers</th>
<th>Labour migrants (Sec. 18-21 Residence Law)</th>
<th>Foreign students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>348,909</td>
<td>42,756</td>
<td>3,360</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>27,649</td>
<td>294,828</td>
<td>26,386</td>
<td>60,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>398,451</td>
<td>40,210</td>
<td>2,350</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>41,332</td>
<td>293,711</td>
<td>29,768</td>
<td>66,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>532,395</td>
<td>40,975</td>
<td>2,148</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>45,741</td>
<td>207,695</td>
<td>38,083</td>
<td>72,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>623,407</td>
<td>40,843</td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>64,539</td>
<td>3,593</td>
<td>38,745</td>
<td>79,537</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013*</td>
<td>707,771</td>
<td>44,311</td>
<td>2,427</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>109,580</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33,648</td>
<td>86,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>630,243</td>
<td>63,700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>173,072</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Croatia is an EU-state since July 2013

Source: Central Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany, 2015.