LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION OF BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION
Difficulties of non-EU migrants on the labour market in Belgium (Pina et al., 2015)
- High unemployment rate
- Mismatch between skills and employment

Low employment rates among refugees (Rea and Wets, 2014)
- Lower employment compared to other migrations (Lens et al., 2018).

Changing context
- Changing numbers and composition of asylum seekers and refugees
- Changes in procedures and in the length of procedures
- Changes in the work regime for asylum seekers
OBJECTIVES

- What are the economic statuses of people granted international protection in Belgium?
  - Description of statuses during the first years of stay
  - Evolution over time across cohorts
  - Entry into first employment and exit of first employment

- Understanding changes in access to employment
  - Discrete-time event history models
  - Effects of changes in composition by origin, duration of procedure, age, gender?
LINKED ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

• National register data
  • People (18-64) who arrived in Belgium in the period 1999-2014 and obtained a status of international protection in the period 2001-2014
  • Date of asylum demand, date of recognition (refugee, subsidiary protection), departure, death

• Data Warehouse Labour Market and Social Protection
  • 1/4 random sample (n=8,900)
  • Quarterly data on socio-economic position

• Limits
  • No (complete) data on household type nor education
  • Broad socioeconomic categories, no information on the type of job
SOCIO-ECONOMIC POSITION

- Status at the end of the quarter
- Work
  - Self-employed or employed
  - Black work is out of scope
  - In case of combination states: work has the priority over benefits
- Social assistance
- Social insurance
- Unemployment benefits
- Others
62% men

Average age: 30 years

Main origins (2001-2014)
- Western Asia (38%), sub-Saharan Africa (32%) and non-EU Europe (25%)
- Former USSR, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Rwanda, Former Yugoslavia, Guinea, DR Congo, China, Iran
SOCIOECONOMIC POSITION BY COHORT, BY DURATION SINCE ARRIVAL

2001-2006

2007-2009

2010-2014
SOCIOECONOMIC POSITION BY GENDER, BY DURATION SINCE ARRIVAL

- **Men**
  - Work
  - Unemployment benefit
  - Social insurance benefit
  - Social assistance benefit
  - Other unspecified
  - Death

- **Women**
  - Work
  - Unemployment benefit
  - Social insurance benefit
  - Social assistance benefit
  - Other unspecified
  - Death

Years since arrival range from 0 to 5.
PERCENT WORKING BY COHORT, SINCE ARRIVAL

Percentage working vs. Years since arrival for different cohorts:
- 2001-2006*
- 2007-2009*
- 2010-2014*

*Note: The asterisk indicates a specific time period.
PERCENT WHO EVER WORKED, BY COHORT, SINCE ARRIVAL

Percentage who ever worked

Years since arrival

- 2001-2006
- 2007-2009
- 2010-2014
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EVER WORK AND CURRENT WORK

- 2001-2006
  - Ever worked
  - Current work

- 2007-2009
- 2010-2014

Years since arrival

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%
DURATION IN FIRST EMPLOYMENT SPELL
MEDIAN DURATION : < 1 YEAR

Years in work

- 2010-2014
- 2007-2009
- 2001-2006
### Distribution of socio-economic positions in the quarter following the first work episode

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment benefit</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>32.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other social insurance benefit</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social assistance benefit</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other unspecified</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**IS THE DELAY IN ACCESS TO FIRST JOB EXPECTED FROM CHANGES IN COHORT COMPOSITION?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Observed change</th>
<th>Observed differences</th>
<th>Expected impact on trends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Less European non-EU refugees</td>
<td>European Non-EU refugees are less likely to work</td>
<td>Increase in % working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Younger age at arrival</td>
<td>Younger people are more likely to work</td>
<td>Increase in % working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Increasing % of men</td>
<td>Men are more likely to work</td>
<td>Increase in % working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of</td>
<td>Shorter period as asylum-seeker</td>
<td>Refugees are more likely to work than asylum seekers</td>
<td>Increase in % working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>procedure</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
COMPARISON OF OBSERVED AND EXPECTED TRENDS – EVENT HISTORY MODELS

Odds ratios
Observed trend

Odds ratios
Expected trend

2001-2006
2007-2009
2010-2014
KEY FINDINGS

- A large share of beneficiaries of international protection do work at some point
  - Around 80% after 10 years (90% among men)
  - But very short duration of first employment spell
  - Large gap between the percentage of people having ever worked and those working

- Slowing down of access to first employment among beneficiaries of international protection
  - An improvement was expected from the changes in the composition of cohorts
  - Controlling for cohort composition, the slowdown is even more pronounced
- Reasons for the slowdown in access to employment among refugees
  - Economic crisis, change in work regime for asylum seekers, skills, others?
- What influences the duration of first employment among refugees?
  - An how to improve the stability of employment?
- Further description of
  - Socioeconomic careers and their changes across cohorts
  - Types of jobs, and mismatch between job and education
- Linking people to other members of the household
  - Expected that a larger share of refugees living with at least one household member working
- More recent data (>2014) and other data sources