Abstract

This study develops a new index to measure family reunification policies across 33 countries. Using a implicative scaling model, policy indicators are selected from the Migrant Integration Policy Index database (MIPEX) to create an measurement instrument that is truly uni-dimensional and sensitive to actual policy changes. The new index, the MIPi, singles out language requirements as the core policy instruments of limiting family reunion. The study shows that the new index is consistent with expectations on policy developments in European countries since 2008. In particular, the new index shows that while countries on average become more restrictive, the variation between countries in policy positions has actually increased, and singles out Denmark and the Netherlands as leaders in the “race to the bottom”. Moreover, the new index predicts changes in actual family reunion migration between 2008 and 2012, unlike the existing index created from the database.

Keywords: migration policy index; family reunification; family migration trends; MIPEX
Family reunification is a recognized reason for immigration in many countries because of the presence of one or more family members in a certain country, therefore, enables the rest of the divided family or only specific members of the family to immigrate to that country as well. Family reunification laws try to balance the right of a family to live together with the country's right to control immigration. However, what the balance looks like and which members of the family can be reunited differ...

Family reunification Directive establishes the rules under which non-EU nationals can bring their family members to the EU country in which they are legally residing. More information on the key provisions of the directive in the Summary of EU legislation – Family reunification Directive. Objectives. It advises EU countries in their implementation of the Directive in order to achieve a more consistent policy and practice across the EU. 2011. The Commission adopts a Green paper on the right to family reunification of third-country nationals living in the European Union launched as part of a broad public consultation on family reunification took place to gather opinions from stakeholders and decide on the policy follow-up. 2008. partners as well as spouses. Reunification of family members depends on the legal status of an immigrant who resides in the Czech Republic and acts as a sponsor for immigrating family members. Third-country nationals who possess a long-term residence permit or a permanent residence permit and have been in the Czech Republic for at least fifteen months are allowed to invite their spouses, minor children. There are also bilateral treaties that apply to the preconditions for family reunification in the Czech Republic. Family reunification policy is a critical case to study the multi-levelness of migration policies and the interactions between the different (regional and national) governance levels, policy processes which are most relevant to gain insight into contemporary EU migration policymaking. Read more MIPEX Team. MIPEX team is formed by the members of CIDOB and MPG, the leading organization of the Migrant Integration Policy Index project. ABOUT US. The index is the most comprehensive, reliable and used tool to compare what governments are doing to promote the integration of migrants across Europe and the world. Academic citation: Migrant Integration Policy Index 2020 Solano, Giacomo and Huddleston, Thomas (2020) ISBN: 978-84-92511-83-9.