



DEMIG POLICY CODEBOOK

In Excel:

Every policy measure tracked in DEMIG POLICY corresponds to one entry in the excel file and is composed of the following descriptors:

- Summary: Provides a summary of the policy measure tracked.
- Year: Identifies the year in which the policy measure entered into force. This sometimes differs from the year the policy measure has been enacted in parliament or by government. Whenever possible, we also tracked the year of enactment, without however coding it as a change.
- Description: Provides a comprehensive description of the policy measure. We disaggregated large policy packages into their specific policy measures to better code its content and restrictiveness. The description is split in three parts in the following way:

Policy name – Policy content
> Additional information

Policy measures that belong to the same policy reform package are identified by the same policy name and colored in light peach.

- Source: Records the source of the description of the policy change.
- Magnitude: Assesses the magnitude of the policy change, whether it is a major change, mid-level change, minor change or fine-tuning change.
- Level of legislation: Assesses whether the policy is a national policy or results from a bi- or multilateral agreement. Data collection focused on national policies and therefore, the bi- and multilateral agreements are inconsistently and not comprehensively tracked. DEMIG POLICY does not record sub-national policy changes (at regional or federal level).
- Policy area: Assesses whether the policy deals with border controls, legal entry, integration or exit.
- Policy tool: Assesses the instrument used by the policy measure, such as a recruitment agreement, a regularization program, a work permit, a quota, carrier sanctions etc. The database also tracks some contextual elements; these are however not coded as a change.
- Target group: Assesses the migrant group targeted by the policy measure, such as low-skilled workers, refugees and asylum seekers, students, family members, etc.
- Target origin: Assesses the geographical scope of the policy measure, such as targeting only EU citizens, specific nationalities, all foreign nationalities etc.
- Specific nationalities: If the policy targets migrants from a specific nationality, the nationalities or origin characteristics are specified here.
- Restrictiveness: Assesses whether the policy measure represents a change towards more or less restrictiveness of the existing legal framework. It also mentions cases in which policy measures do not introduce any change in restrictiveness or when it cannot be assessed.



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In Stata:

Every policy measure tracked in DEMIG POLICY corresponds to one entry in the stata file and is defined by the following variables:

- country: Identifies the reporting country that enacted the policy measure.
- year: Identifies the year in which the policy measure entered into force. This sometimes differs from the year the policy measure has been enacted in parliament or by government. Whenever possible, we also tracked the year of enactment, without however coding it as a change.
- summary: Provides a summary of the policy measure tracked.
- change_mag: Assesses the magnitude of the policy change, whether it is a major change, mid-level change, minor change or fine-tuning change.
- change_level: Assesses whether the policy is a national policy or results from a bi- or multilateral agreement. Data collection focused on national policies and therefore, the bi- and multilateral agreements are inconsistently and not comprehensively tracked. DEMIG POLICY does not record sub-national policy changes (at regional or federal level).
- pol_area: Assesses whether the policy deals with border controls, legal entry, integration or exit.
- pol_tool: Assesses the instrument used by the policy measure, such as a recruitment agreement, a regularization program, a work permit, a quota, carrier sanctions etc. The database also tracks some contextual elements; these are however not coded as a change.
- target_group: Assesses the migrant group targeted by the policy measure, such as low-skilled workers, refugees and asylum seekers, students, family members, etc.
- target_origin: Assesses the geographical scope of the policy measure, such as targeting only EU citizens, specific nationalities, all foreign nationalities etc.
- target_specific: If the policy targets migrants from a specific nationality, the nationalities or origin characteristics are specified here.
- change_restrict: Assesses whether the policy measure represents a change towards more or less restrictiveness of the existing legal framework. It also mentions cases in which policy measures do not introduce any change in restrictiveness or when it cannot be assessed.

Please be aware that the stata file does not contain any empty entries. This implies that if there has been no policy change in a given year in a specific country, there will be no entry for that year-country dyad instead of an empty line.



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Stata code	Magnitude of change *	
		Stata variable: change_level
1	Fine-tuning change	Fine-tuning changes are measures that only affect part of a migrant category and only alter an existing policy instrument.
2	Minor change	Minor changes are measures that affect an entire migrant category, and only alter an existing policy instrument.
3	Mid-level change	Mid-level changes are measures that only affect part of a migrant category, but introduce or remove a new policy instrument.
4	Major change	Major changes are measures that affect an entire migrant category and introduce or remove a new policy instrument.
999	Non applicable	This code is used for data entries that are not policy changes. These can for instance encompass contextual elements, action plans, policy proposals, political discourse, institutional capacities or the enactment of a policy change if the year differs from the its entering into force.

*For more detailed definitions and discussion of the magnitude of change code, please refer to **de Haas, Natter and Vezzoli, 2014**, "Compiling and coding migration policies: Insights from the DEMIG POLICY database", *IMI Working Paper 87*, Oxford: International Migration Institute, University of Oxford.



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Stata code	Magnitude of legislation Stata variable: leg_level	
0	National level policies	Codes policies that are enacted by national-level institutions and/or that apply to the entire national territory.
1	Bi- or multilateral level policies	Codes policies that are enacted either at the bilateral or multilateral level and/or that cover mobility in a specific geographical area reaching beyond the national territory.
999	Non applicable	This code is used for data entries that are not policy changes. These can for instance encompass contextual elements, action plans, policy proposals, political discourse, institutional capacities or the enactment of a policy change if the year differs from the its entering into force.

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Stata code	Policy area Stata variable: pol_area	
1	Border and land control	Codes policy measures that regulate external and internal border controls which aim at securing the national territory. It is not limited to controls at the borders and includes issues of surveillance, detention and sanctions of fraudulent acts.
2	Legal entry and stay	Codes policy measures that regulate the legal entry to and stay on a territory of a target group. This includes all issues related to entry and stay permits, be they for travel or immigration purposes, as well as regularisations. Residency (except rules on permanent residency) is not dealt with apart, as it is often a corollary of the entry visa/permits. We do not distinguish between temporary and long term permits, as their definitions vary importantly across countries.
3	Integration	Codes policy measures that regulate the post-entry rights or affect other aspects of integration of a target group. This also includes policy measures that aim at regulating the state's relations with its citizens living abroad, as well as their descendants.
4	Exit	Codes policy measures that regulate the (forced or voluntary) exit or return from a territory of a target group.
999	Non applicable	This code is used for contextual elements, action plans or institutional capacities, i.e. entries that are not policy changes as such.

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Stata code	Policy tool Stata variable: pol_tool	
1	Surveillance technology/control powers	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish surveillance or registration systems to control the movement and migration status of people. This can include the use of technology, the construction of fences, the introduction of fingerprinting, but also the introduction of measures that regulate the number of border guards and the powers of immigration staff.
2	Identification documents	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish rules on identification documents, such as the introduction of biometric passports, rules on identity cards or driver licenses.
3	Detention	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria for the detention of foreigners.
4	Carrier liabilities	Codes policy measures that regulate the responsibilities of and requirements for carriers, i.e. transportation companies, and establish, change or abolish the respective sanctions for the transportation of people. This can include the transportation of regular and irregular immigrants and emigrants, but does not apply to human traffickers and smugglers.
5	Employer liabilities	Codes policy measures that regulate the responsibilities of employers related to the employment of foreign workers, such as registration and control requirements or employment permits. They also concern measures that establish, change or abolish sanctions for the unlawful employment of migrants.
6	Other sanctions	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish sanctions other than for carriers or employers, such as sanctions for document fraud, for irregular migration and overstaying, or for human trafficking and smuggling.
7	Travel visa/permit	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria, including fees, for foreigners to obtain a travel visa to enter or leave a particular country. This includes measures regulating entry or exit for any purpose (business, family, holidays), but which do not grant any im- or emigration rights to its holder. This code is not used when states require their citizens to hold exit permits in order to migrate (cf. exit ban).

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8	Work visa/permit	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria (age, language knowledge, education level, salary requirements, labour market test, fees) to obtain a work visa or permit before or after arrival. This includes working holiday maker schemes, youth mobility programmes or visa facilitation measures, but can also refer to the introduction of a compulsory language test or integration contract for entry. This code is used for all entry schemes where individuals have the agency to apply themselves (contrary to recruitment programme in which the state has the agency to select the participants).
9	Entry visa/stay permit	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria (age, language knowledge, education level, family relations, protection need, fees) to obtain different types of entry visa and stay permits for a specific purpose, such as student visas, investor visas or family visas, but can also refer to the introduction of a compulsory language test or integration contract for entry. This code is used for all entry visas and stay permits except: Travel visas, work permits and permanent residency.
10	Points-based system	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the criteria of a points-based system that gives access to either a work or another visa/permit.
11	Quota/target	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the quota or numerical target associated to a work or other visa/permit.
12	Regularisation	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish regularisation or normalization programmes. The distinctive feature used to define regularisation is that it grants legal status to people who lack it. Adjustment of status programmes which grant permanent residency to people with a <u>temporary legal status</u> do not fall under this code.
13	Entry ban	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish an entry ban, defined as the categorical exclusion of a specific group from the right to enter the country. These groups have no access to a legal channel of entry into the country and are not eligible to apply for an entry visa or permit.
14	Recruitment/assisted migration programmes	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish unilateral assisted migration schemes or bilateral agreements between governments or between a companies and a government to organise the recruitment of workers. This code is used for all schemes where the state has the agency and is actively involved in the selection of migrants (contrary to work visa/permits in which individuals have the agency to apply).
15	Resettlement programmes	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish programmes that resettle refugees already recognized by UNHCR and grant them residency rights. This code is also used for (mostly historical) population exchanges between countries.

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16	Free mobility rights/agreements	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish unilateral governmental decisions or agreements between governments to grant free mobility, i.e. the free right to enter and reside in this country, to a specific target group. These can include the right to work or not, but does not apply to simple visa-waiving decisions or visa facilitations.
17	Language, housing and cultural integration programmes	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria giving migrants access to language programmes, financial assistance or housing programmes, as well as religious and cultural integration programmes especially established for migrants.
18	Access to social benefits and socio-economic rights	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria giving migrants access to the existing state system of social benefits and socio-economic rights. This includes access to social security, health system, education system and unemployment benefits. This code also includes measures directed at the diaspora, which regulate their access to socio-economic rights, including saving schemes and remittances transfer.
19	Access to justice and political rights	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria giving migrants access to the existing state system of justice and political rights. This includes access to legal aid, the right to vote, the right of appeal, the right to create associations, as well as antidiscrimination legislation and multiculturalism policies. This code also includes measures that are directed at the diaspora.
20	Access to permanent residency	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria that give migrants access to permanent residency, including language and integration tests.
21	Access to citizenship	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria that give access to citizenship or naturalisation, including citizenship and language tests and ceremonies.
22	Reintegration/return programmes	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish bilateral agreements or unilateral programmes that aim at reintegrating migrants in their countries of origin through financial or institutional assistance, such as voluntary return programmes. It includes both the actual assistance to return and subsequent measures established to foster their reintegration in the home society.
23	Readmission agreements	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish agreements between governments for the readmission of irregular migrants and/or rejected asylum seekers.
24	Expulsion	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish the procedures or eligibility criteria for the physical removal of people, including expulsion.

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25	Exit visa/permit or exit ban	Codes policy measures that establish, change or abolish requirements for the exit of the country's citizens, making the departure of the country subject to prior approval. This includes both rules on exit permits, as well as more absolute forms of exit bans.
26	Institutional capacities	Codes policy measures that establish or abolish institutions or bureaus to deal with a specific policy area, such as the creation of new ministries or agencies or the creation of reception centres for asylum seekers.
27	Action Plan, Strategy, Report	Codes important policy documents which are no legal measures or decisions, such as action plans, strategies or reports and which have been or attempted to be influential in a specific policy area.
28	Contextual elements	Reserved for contextual comments, which can include policy discussions, information on failed draft laws, important political events such as the entry of a specific country into the EU or the fall of the Iron Curtain.

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Stata code	Target group Stata variable: target_group	
1	All	Codes policy measures that target not just migrants, but depending on the measure also travellers, permanent residents, citizens etc. This is particularly relevant for travel policies, as well as for surveillance and control measures.
2	All migrants	Codes policy measures that target all migrants (either immigrants or emigrants), indifferent of their legal status or personal characteristics. There is no time-related definition of migrant – it can apply both to long-term and temporary migrants under 12 months. Travellers are not considered migrants.
3	All migrant workers	Codes policy measures that target all workers, indifferent of their skill level. This category can also include unemployed migrant workers.
4	Low-skilled workers	Codes policy measures that target workers who are either explicitly labelled as low-skilled or who will work in occupations that do not require more than secondary education, such as seasonal workers, working holiday makers, domestic workers, care-givers, construction workers etc.
5	Skilled/high-skilled workers	Codes policy measures that target workers who are either explicitly labelled as skilled/high-skilled or who will work in occupations that require more than secondary education, such as doctors, engineers, researchers, ICTs or workers with occupations listed on the respective national shortage list.
6	Family members	Codes policy measures that target children, spouses and/or other relatives of citizens and/or migrants.
7	Family members of high-skilled workers, investors or students	Codes policy measures that target children, spouses and/or other relatives of high-skilled migrant workers and international students.
8	Family members of irregular migrants or refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable people	Codes policy measures that target children, spouses and/or other relatives of irregular migrants or refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable people.
9	International students	Codes policy measures that target international students.
10	Investors, entrepreneurs and business people	Codes policy measures that target people based on wealth and trade, such as investors or business people, including entrepreneurs.
11	Irregular migrants	Codes policy measures that target irregular migrants or undocumented individuals. This category can also include irregular workers.

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12	Refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable people	Codes policy measures that target refugees, asylum seekers and/or other vulnerable people such as people seeking humanitarian protection, unaccompanied minors or victims of trafficking. This category can also include rejected asylum seekers.
13	Diaspora	Codes policy measures that target emigrants and/or their descendants. This code does not only apply to citizens living abroad, but also to people which the state considers part of the wider nation through common ethnic, historical or other links.
14	Specific categories	Codes policy measures that target specific, historical or unusual migrant categories, such as prostitutes, insane, criminals or terrorists.
999	Non applicable	This code is used for contextual elements, action plans or institutional capacities, i.e. entries that are not policy changes as such.

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Stata code	Target origin Stata variable: target_origin	
1	All	Codes policy measures that target not just migrants, but both citizens and foreigners. This is particularly relevant for citizenship measures, antidiscrimination and multiculturalism policies, but also for some surveillance and control measures.
2	All foreign nationalities	Codes policy measures that target citizens of all foreign nationalities. In the European context, this code is also used if the measure targets only third country nationals. More generally, this code is used even if some nationalities may enjoy a special status and are exempt from the general rule (e.g. Algerians in France, New Zealanders in Australia). In order to correctly interpret the data, a thorough contextual knowledge is required.
3	EU citizens	Codes policy measures that target citizens of EU countries. Depending on the year, this category includes more or less countries (for example in 2003, 15 countries, in 2004, 25 countries).
4	Citizens	Codes policy measures that target the citizens of the country in question, residing within and/or outside of the country. This code is particularly relevant for diaspora policies, emigration policies or citizenship policies.
5	Specific nationalities	Codes policy measures which explicitly target migrants of specific nationalities only. In the European context, this code is not used for policies targeting third country nationals only. The nationalities targeted are specified in the database.
999	Non applicable	This code is used for contextual elements, action plans or institutional capacities, i.e. entries that are not policy changes as such.

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Stata code	Change in restrictiveness*	
	Stata variable: change_restrict or change_restrict_clean	
-1	Less restrictive	Codes policy measures intending to increase the rights of a migrant group, herewith making the existing legal framework less restrictive than before. The following five criteria were used: (i) Quantity: Does the measure widen the pool of immigrants gaining migration rights? (ii) Composition: Does the measure lower/make more generic the eligibility criteria for entry and stay of a particular migrant group? (iii) Procedure: Does the measure make specific procedures less complicated for the target group? (iv) Choice: Does the measure widen the choices available to immigrants? (v) Control: Does the measure relax the level of control on migrants at the border or within the territory?
0	No change	Codes policy measures that do not introduce a change in restrictiveness into the existing legal framework. This code was used mainly for system changes, which does not impact the level of restrictiveness because they introduce a completely new system to deal with a specific migratory phenomenon.
1	More restrictive	Codes policy measures intending to restrict the rights of a migrant group, herewith making the existing legal framework more restrictive than before. The following five criteria were used: (i) Quantity: Does the measure restrict the pool of immigrants gaining migration rights? (ii) Composition: Does the measure raise/specify the eligibility criteria for entry and stay of a particular migrant group? (iii) Procedure: Does the measure make specific procedures more complicated for the target group? (iv) Choice: Does the measure restrict the choices available to immigrants? (v) Control: Does the measure increase the level of control on migrants at the border or within the territory?
9	Change in restrictiveness cannot be assessed	Codes policy measures whose impact on rights cannot be assessed all together because of, for instance, the ambiguity of the policy change or its internal contradictions.
999	Non applicable	This code is used for data entries that are not policy changes. These can for instance encompass contextual elements, action plans, policy proposals, political discourse, institutional capacities or the enactment of a policy change if the year differs from the its entering into force.

* For more detailed definitions and discussion of the change in restrictiveness code, please refer to **de Haas, Natter and Vezzoli, 2014**, "Compiling and coding migration policies: Insights from the DEMIG POLICY database", *IMI Working Paper 87*, Oxford: International Migration Institute, University of Oxford.