



The limits of diversity in European unity: European identification and preference for internal migration

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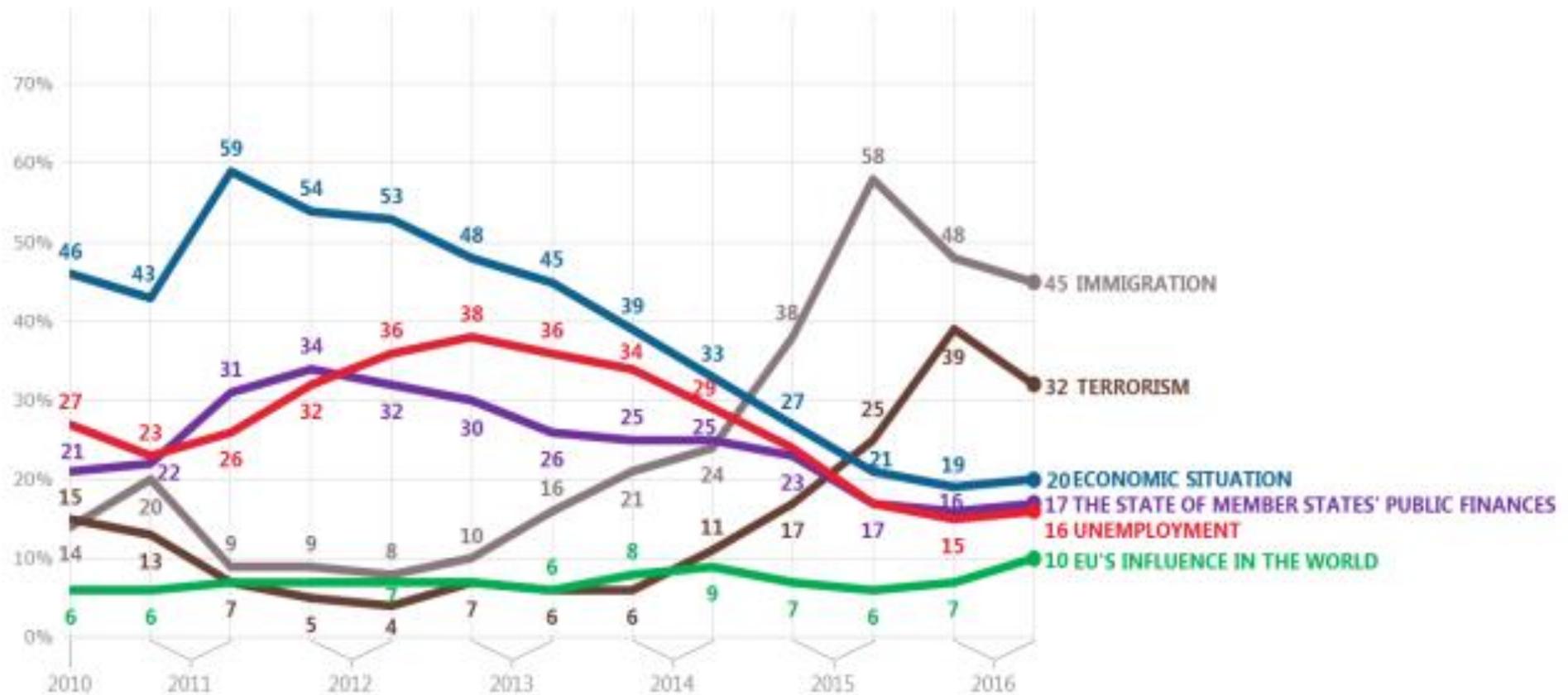
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European identity and migration

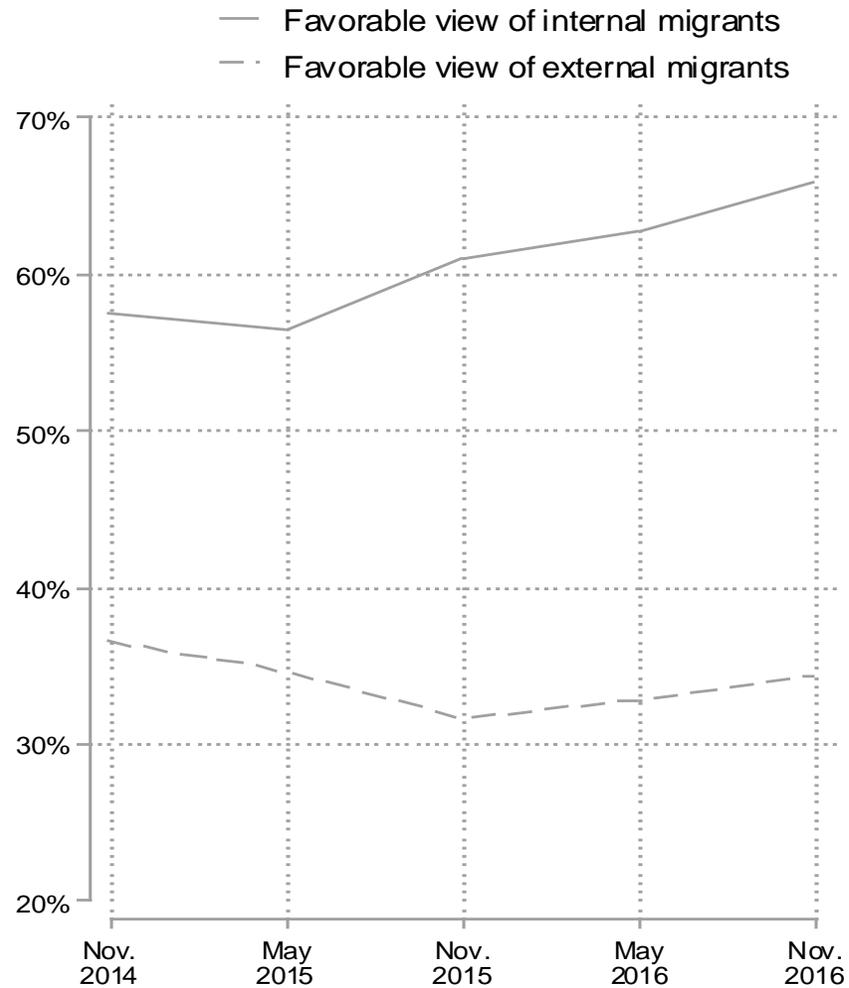
- International migration challenges the self-definition of national communities
- Europe “United in diversity” – supranational level of identification, difference as its constitutive element
- But – need for demarcation of community to make it meaningful
- Free movement, Internal vs. External migrants

Current context: Refugee and migrant crisis and Brexit – politicization of migration in Europe

QAS What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAXIMUM 2 ANSWERS)
 (% - EU)



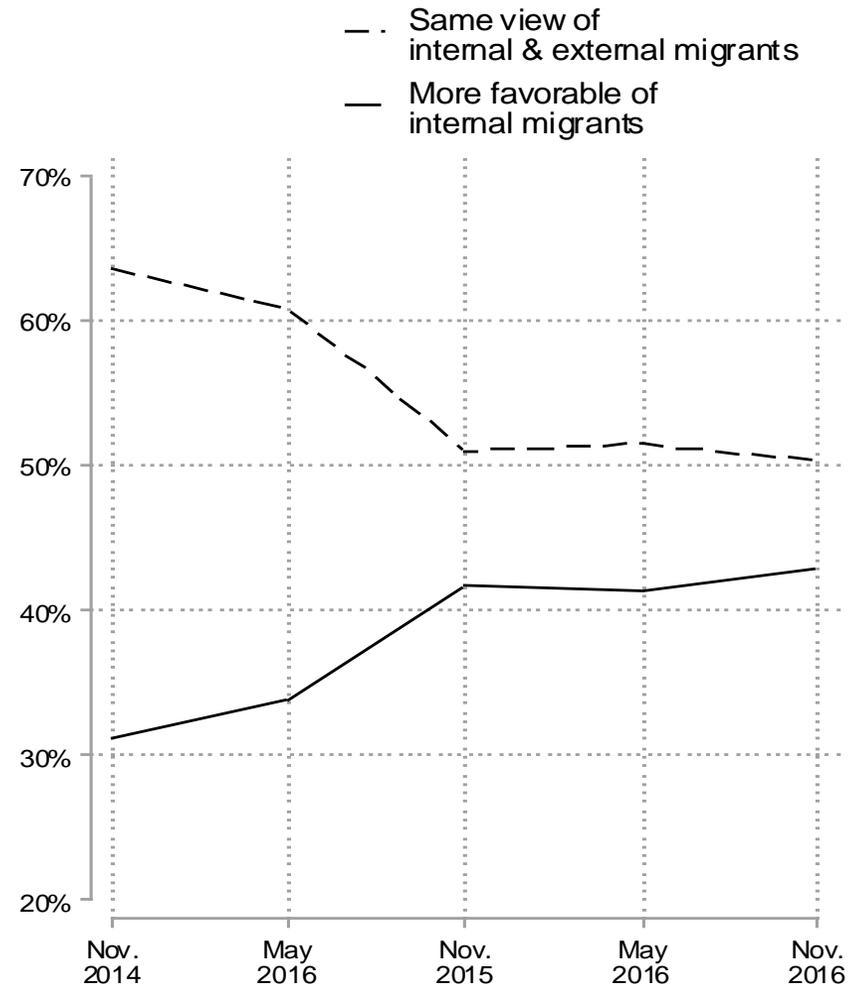
Attitudes towards migration in Europe



Preference for internal migration in the EU?

- Preference for internal migration– a more favorable attitude to EU migrants than non-EU migrants, independent of overall migration attitude
- Previous studies – a majority of EU citizens **does not distinguish** between the two types of migrants (McLaren 2001), hence, no European collective identity

Attitudes towards migration in Europe



Research question

How is the growing preference for internal migration related to processes of EU integration in general, and more specifically, to the development of a European collective identity?

Theoretical framework (I)

- Social identity theory (SIT) – establishing boundaries between the in- and the out-group central to the cognitive process of identification
- European identification as superordinate identity – contributes to greater tolerance towards diversity

Theoretical framework (II)

- European identification compatible with national identification

Configurations of European/national identification:

	Single identification	Double identification
National first	Only national (40%)	National & European (53%)
European first	Only European (1%)	European & national (5%)

How is the growing preference for internal migration related to European identification?

H1. Identifying as *national and European* is associated with a significantly stronger preference for internal migrants, when compared to those who identify solely as nationals.

H2. Identifying as *European and national* or *solely European* is not associated with stronger preference for internal migrants, when compared to those who identify solely as nationals.

Data and methods

Data:

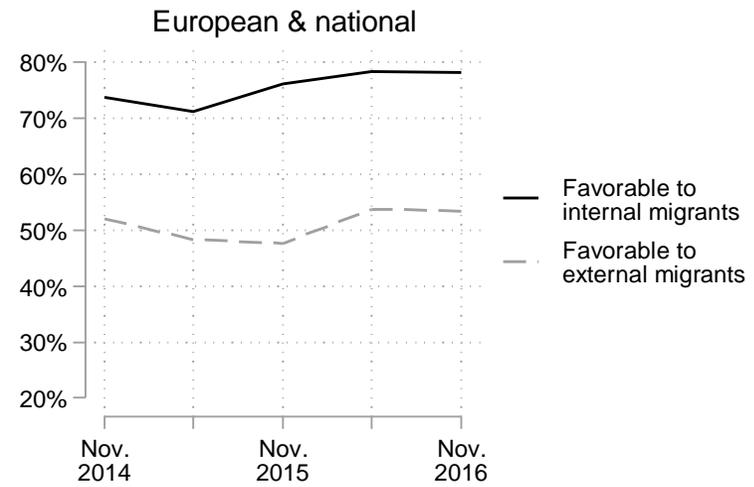
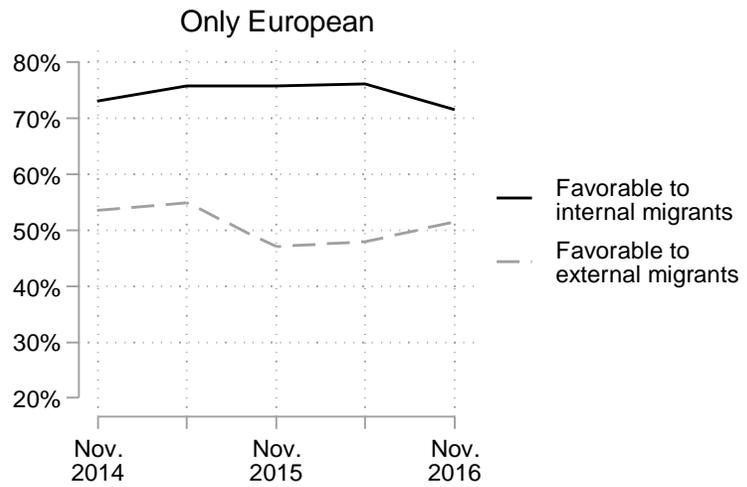
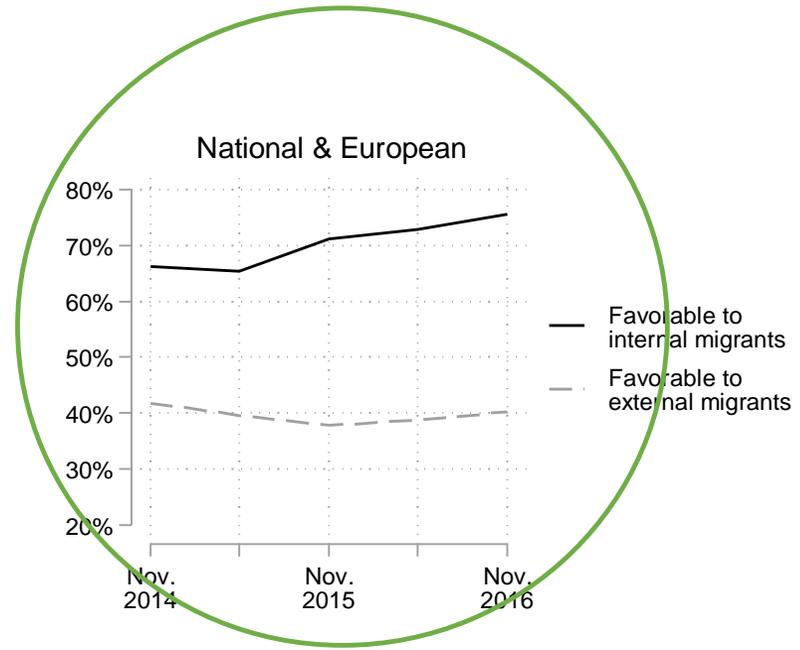
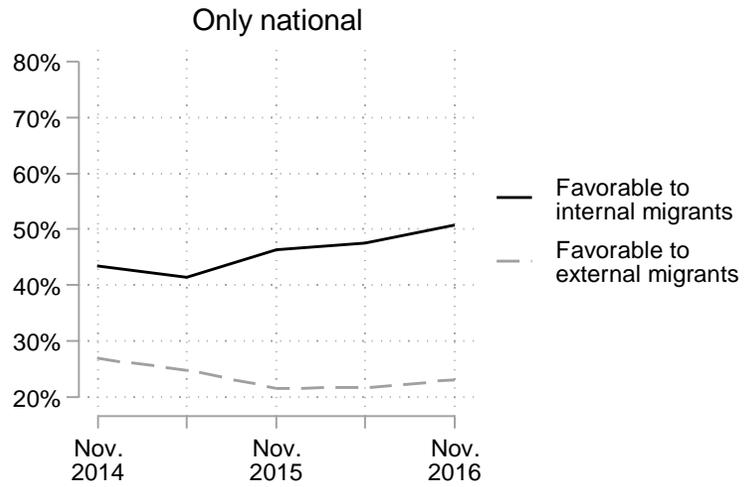
- Eurobarometer between November 2014 and May 2016
- Survey questions regarding migration and European identity in the 28 EU countries

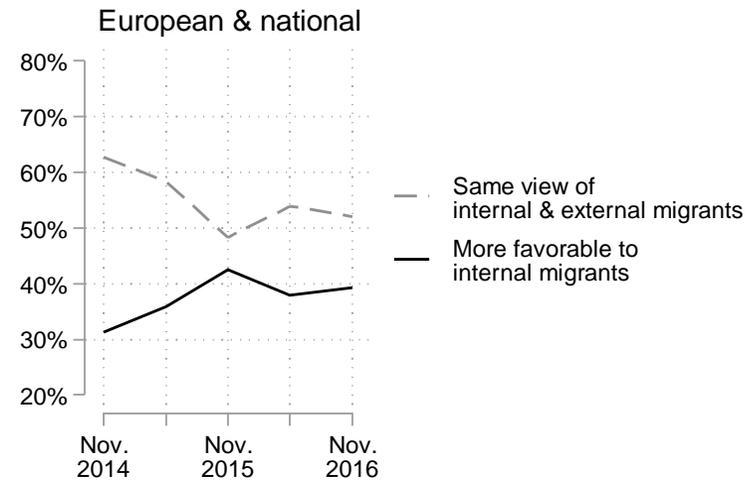
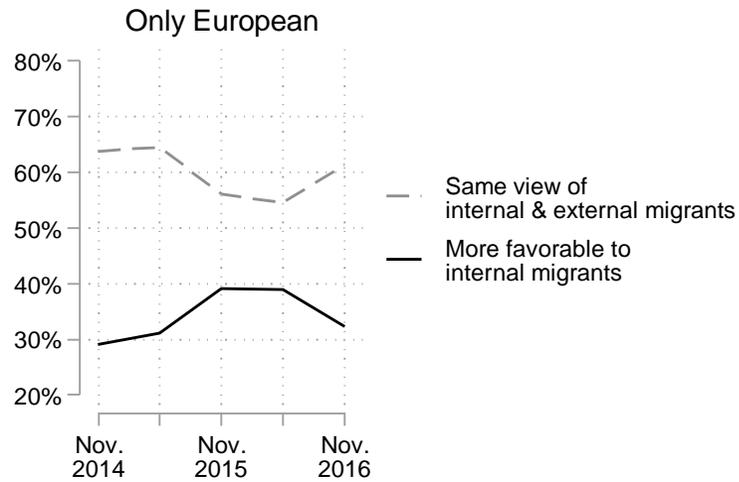
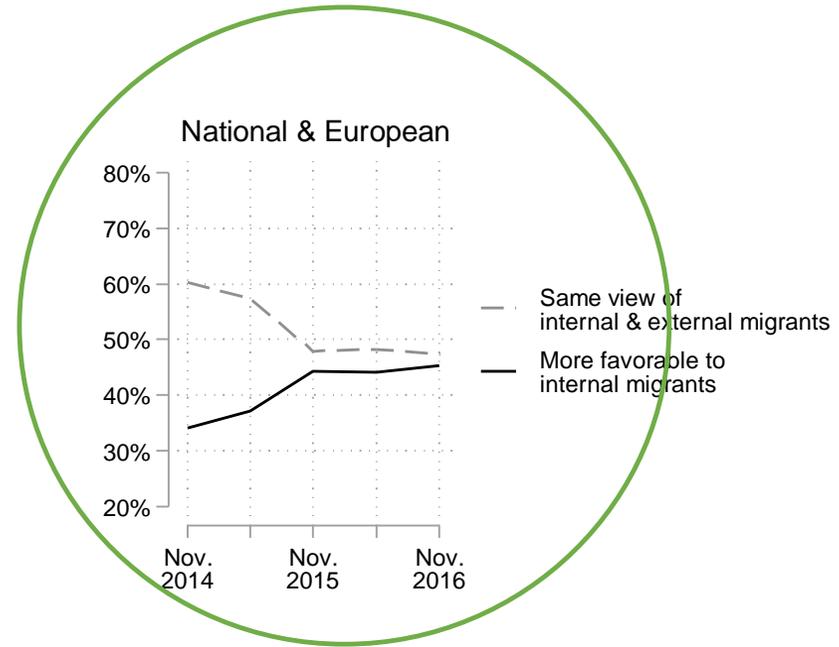
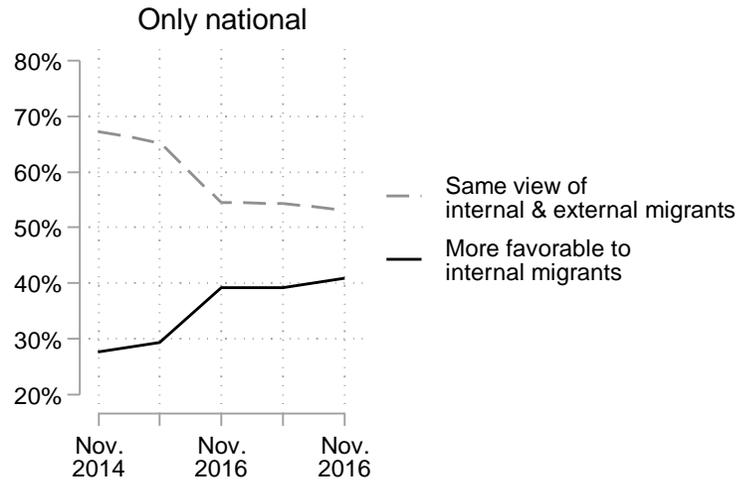
Analysis:

- *Descriptive* analysis of changes in aggregate migration acceptance
- *Explanatory* analysis: multilevel modelling of preference for internal migration

Results:

Preference for internal migration
& European identification

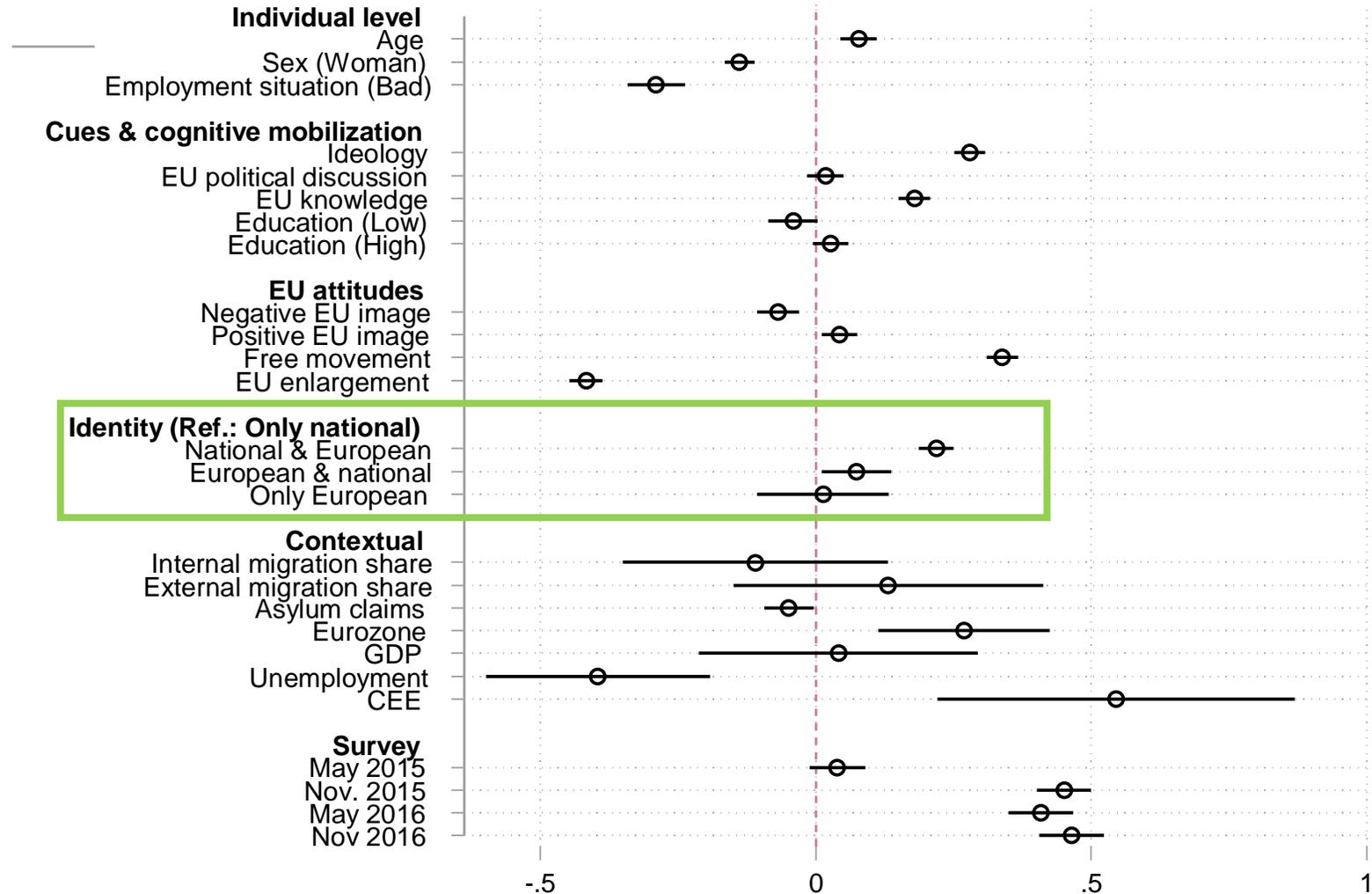




Explanatory analysis

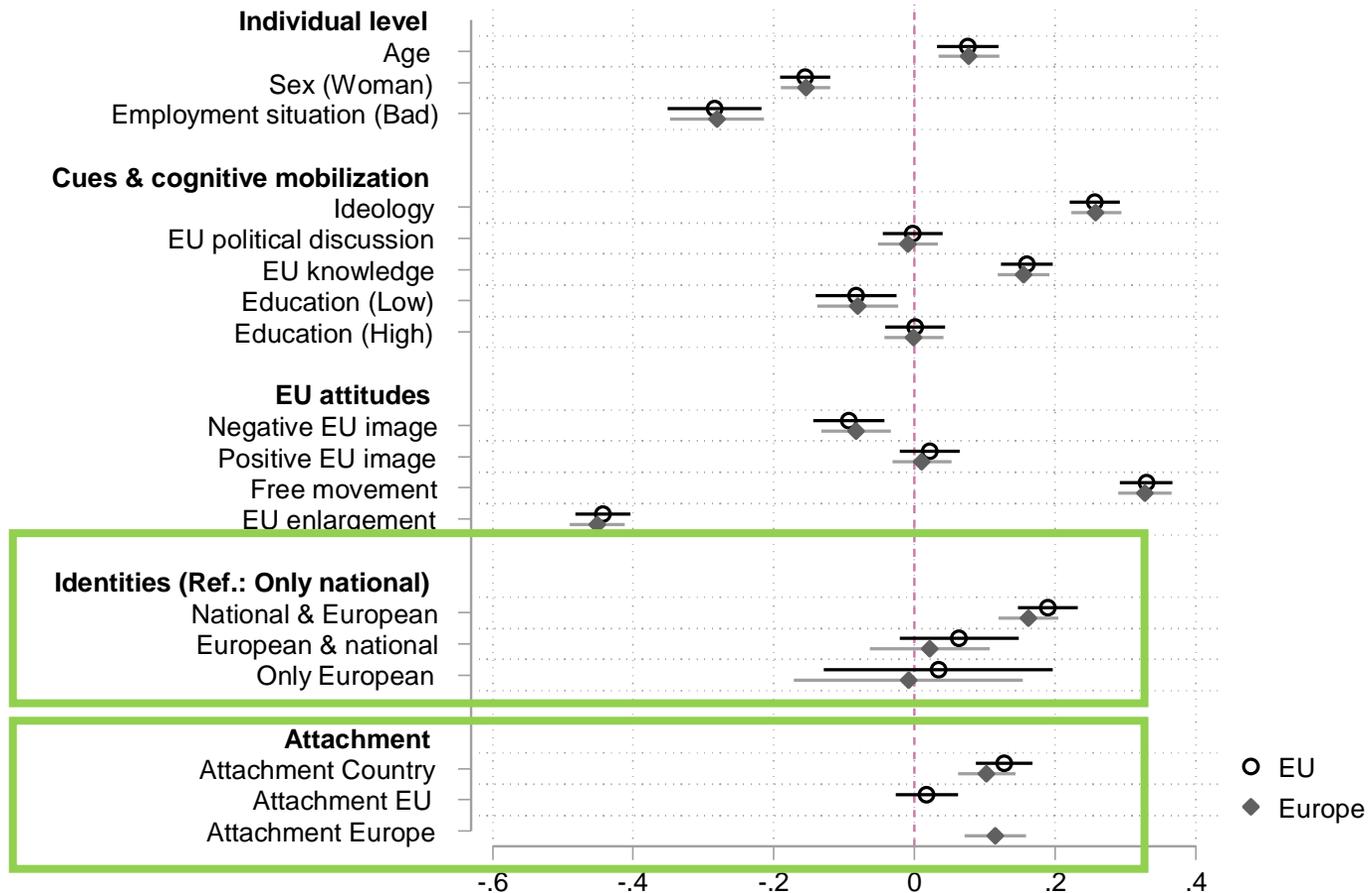
- Multilevel logistical regression models
- DV: preference for European over non-European migrants
- Controls: cues & cognitive mobilization, EU attitudes
- Contextual variables: presence of different types of migration, economic variables (EU-28) and controls for survey wave (5 waves)

Explaining preference for internal migration in the EU (I)

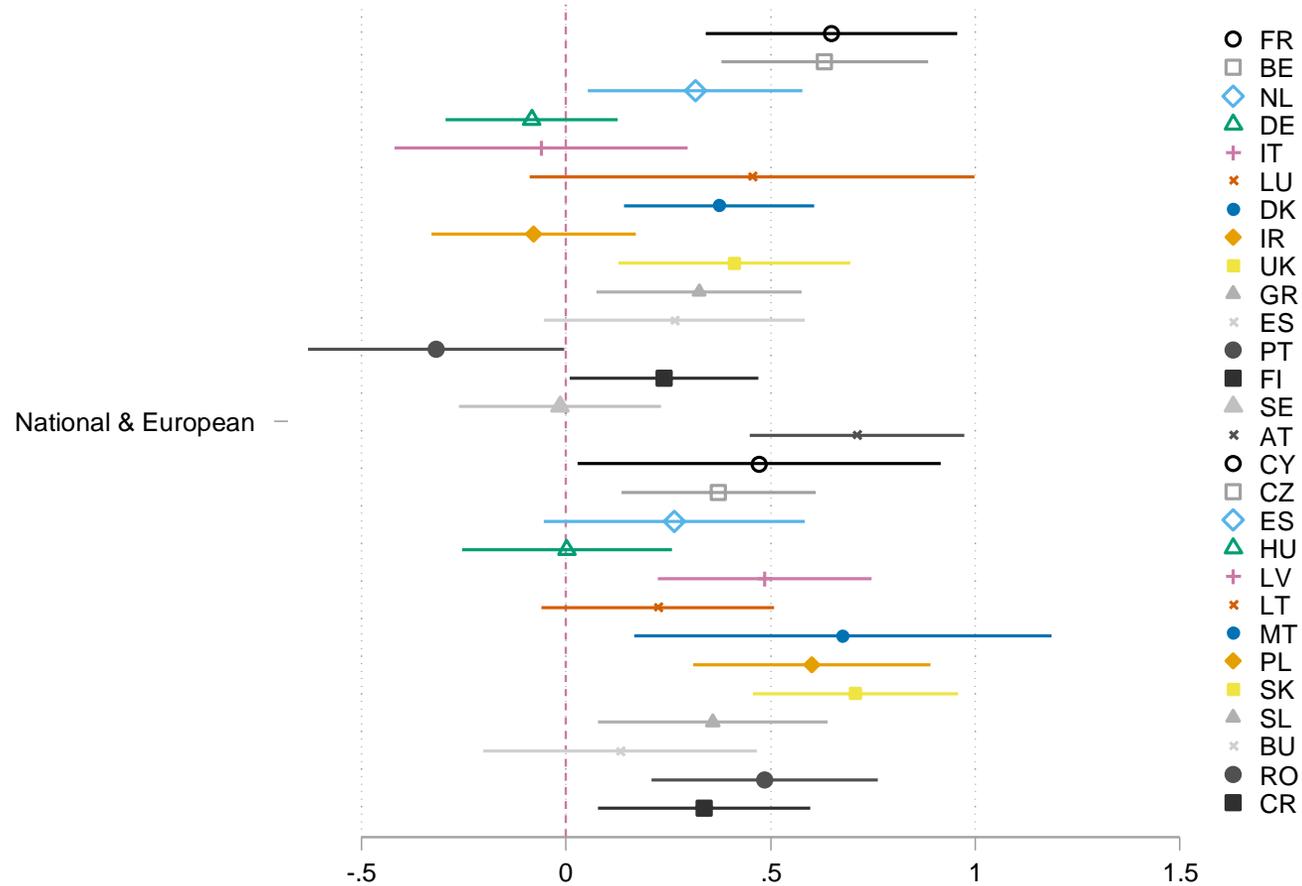


Explaining preference for internal migration in the EU (II)

– attachment to EU vs. Europe



Explaining preference for internal migration in the EU (III) – Single-country models



Conclusions

- Limitation: cross-sectional data, cannot account for change within individuals
- Caveat: who are the European/non-European migrants? But importance of general distinction
- *National & European* identification (but not *European* or *European and national*) associated with greater preference for internal migrants (H1 & H2 confirmed)
- Preference for internal migrants correlated with both civic (EU knowledge, support for free movement) and cultural (attachment to Europe, not the EU) factors
- Importance of national context – not a uniform relationship across EU-28

Thank you!

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