

European Migration Network

Workshop: “Welcoming new citizens? Naturalisation conditions for non-EU nationals in selected EU Member States”

8 July, 16h30 – 18h00 (CEST)



Who we are

- Network of experts to provide objective, comparable, and policy-relevant information on asylum and migration in Europe
- Established in 2008, co-funded by AMIF and national funds

Composition

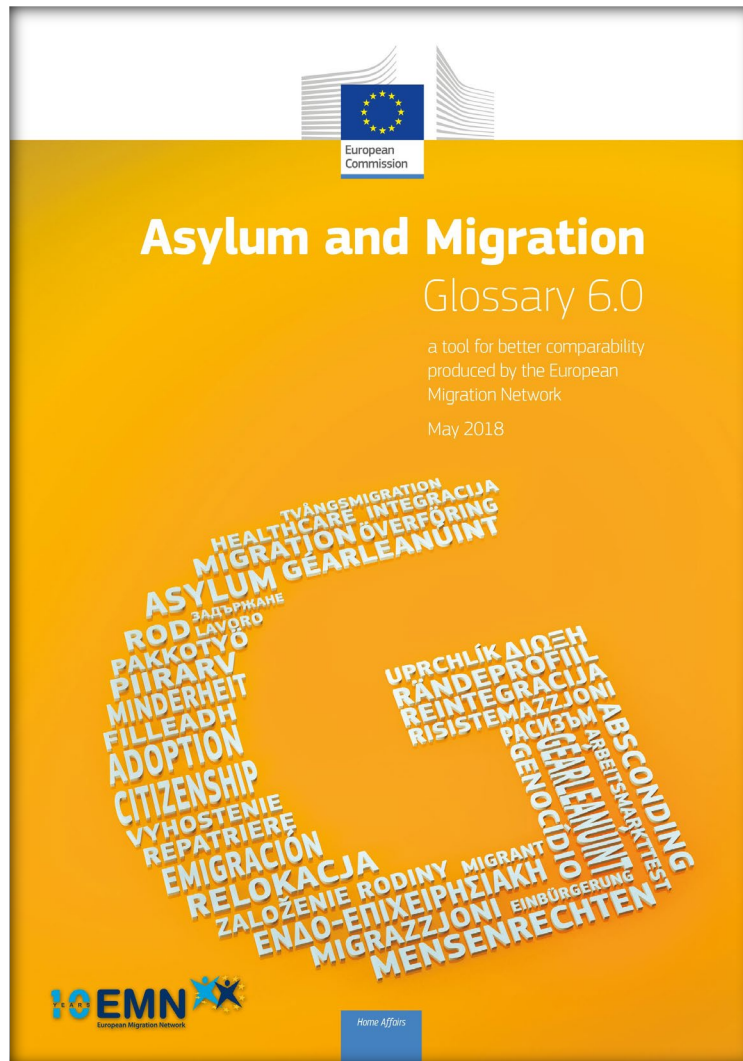
- National Contact Points (NCPs) in all EU countries (except Denmark) + Georgia, Moldova, Norway (ministries, IOs, NGOs, research institutes etc.)
- Service provider (ICF)
- Coordinated by DG HOME

What we do

- Reports, studies, other publications which analyse migration and asylum policies and track legislative developments
- Main outputs: Quarterly bulletin, Annual report on migration and asylum, Glossary



Definitions (EMN Glossary)



Citizenship

- The particular legal bond between an individual and their State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation.
 - Synonym: Nationality

Naturalisation

- Any mode of acquisition after birth of a nationality not previously held by the target person that requires an application by this person or their legal agent as well as an act of granting nationality by a public authority.



Video by EMN Finland

PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP

<https://vimeo.com/506016877>

Synthesis report: Pathways to citizenship for third-country nationals in the EU

Scope

- Comparative overview of the situation and developments in EU Member States on access to citizenship for new migrants from third countries (2014-2019)
- Focus: Ordinary naturalisation for new migrants

Methods

- Secondary sources provided by 25 EU Member States (based on: Legislation and policy documents, reports, academic literature, internet sources, information from national authorities, sometimes interviews with national stakeholders)

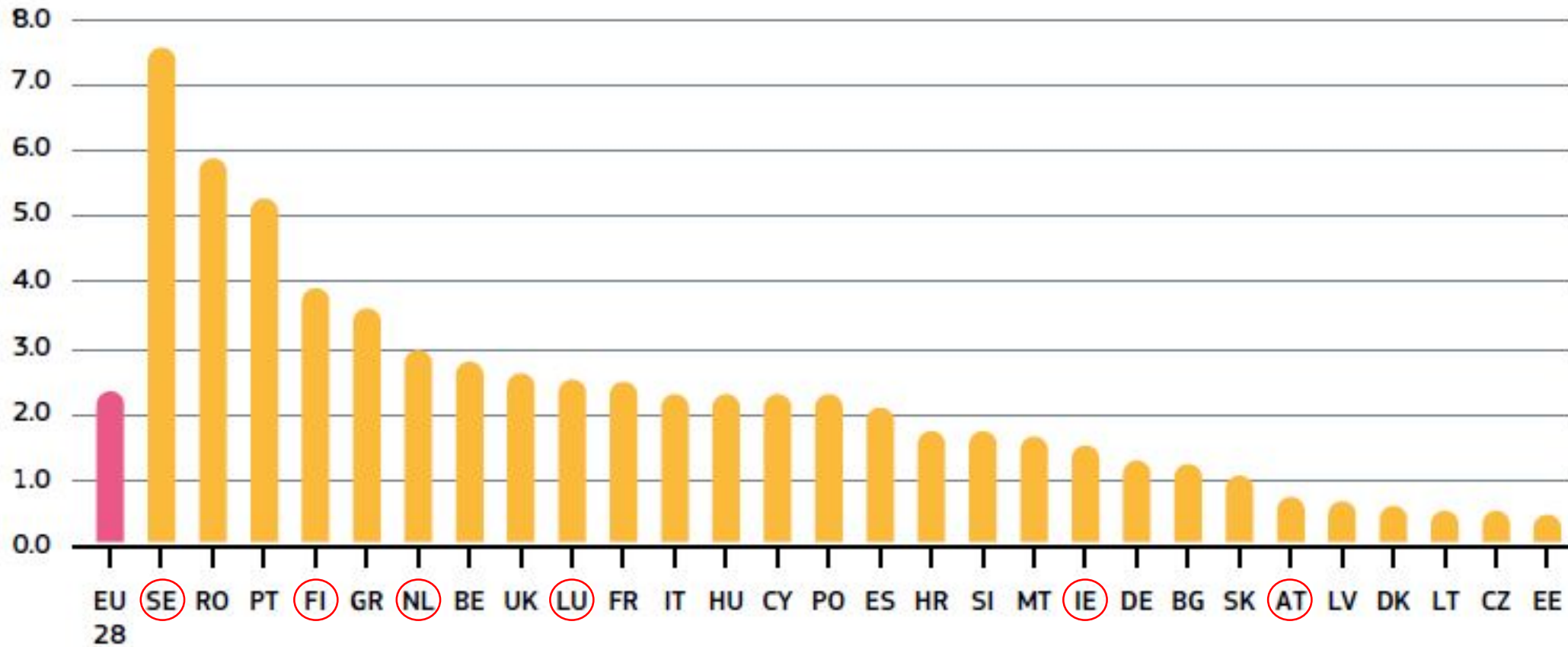
Content

- Legal framework, requirements, procedural aspects, dual citizenship, and the citizenship-integration debate
- Today's workshop:
 - Most common requirements for citizenship acquisition (residence, language, citizenship tests)
 - Position of Member States on dual citizenship
 - Naturalisation: A means or an end of integration?



Naturalisation rates 2018

(Acquisition of citizenship per 100 resident foreigners)



Source: Eurostat, extracted 7 May 2020



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the EU AMIF

Panel 1

EMN Austria

EMN Netherlands

EMN Luxembourg

- Martin Stiller
- Hanna van der Linden
- Ralph Petry



Citizenship Act 1985

Main requirements for ordinary naturalisation

- Uninterrupted and lawful residence (in general: 10 years)
- B1-proficiency in German
- Basic knowledge of the democratic system and related historical aspects
- Secured financial means

Policy on dual citizenship

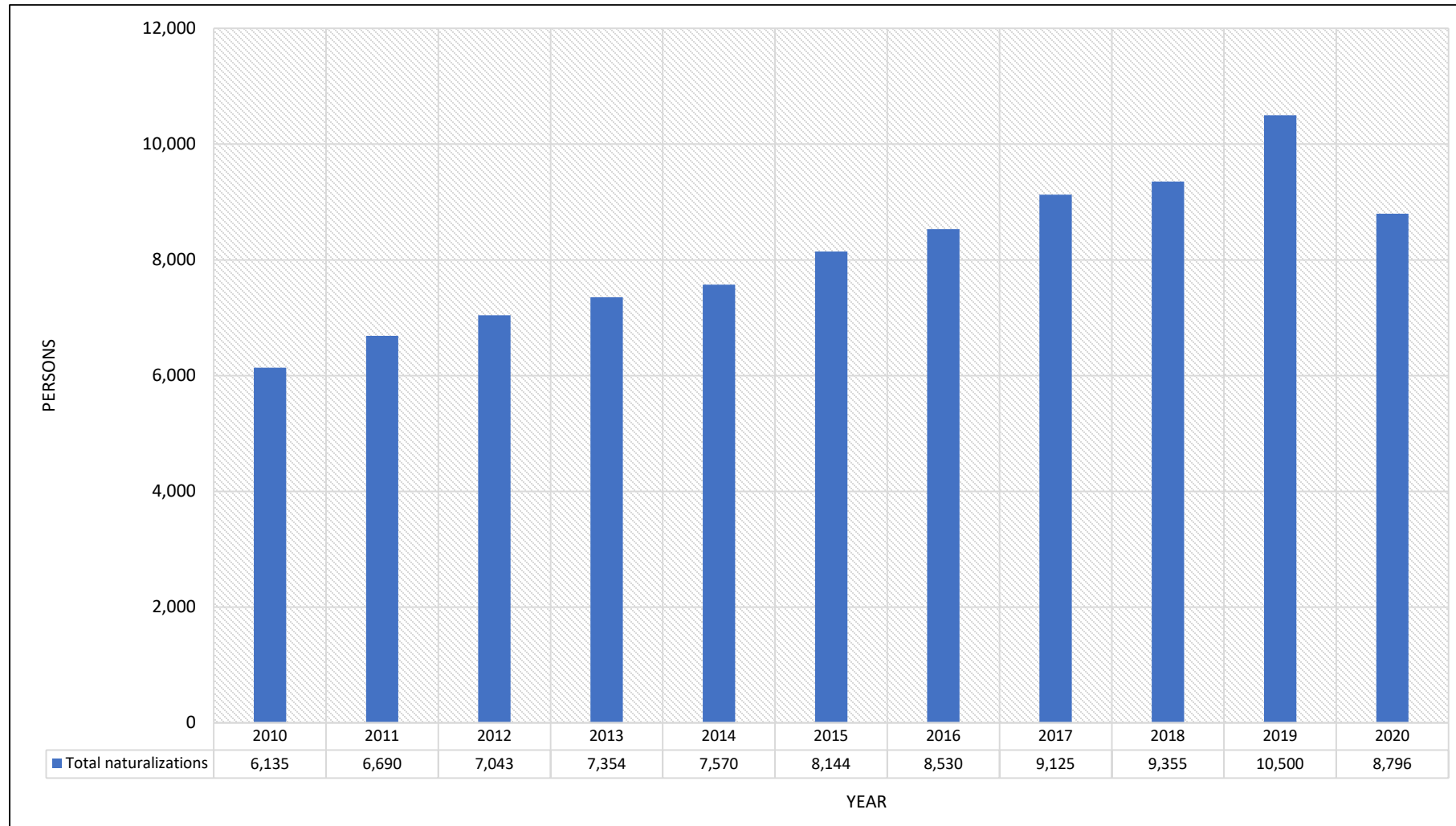
- Intention: avoiding dual or multiple citizenship

Access to nationality MIPEx score 2019

- “unfavourable” (13/100)



Total number of acquisitions of citizenship in Austria



Netherlands Nationality Act 1984

Main requirements for ordinary naturalisation

- 18 years or older or married/registered partnership
- Period of 5 years uninterrupted legal residence
- Successfully passed the civic integration exam or naturalisation test (language test on A2 level, knowledge of Dutch Society, the participation statement)
- No ongoing criminal proceedings or threat to public order and security
- Naturalisation ceremony

Policy on dual citizenship

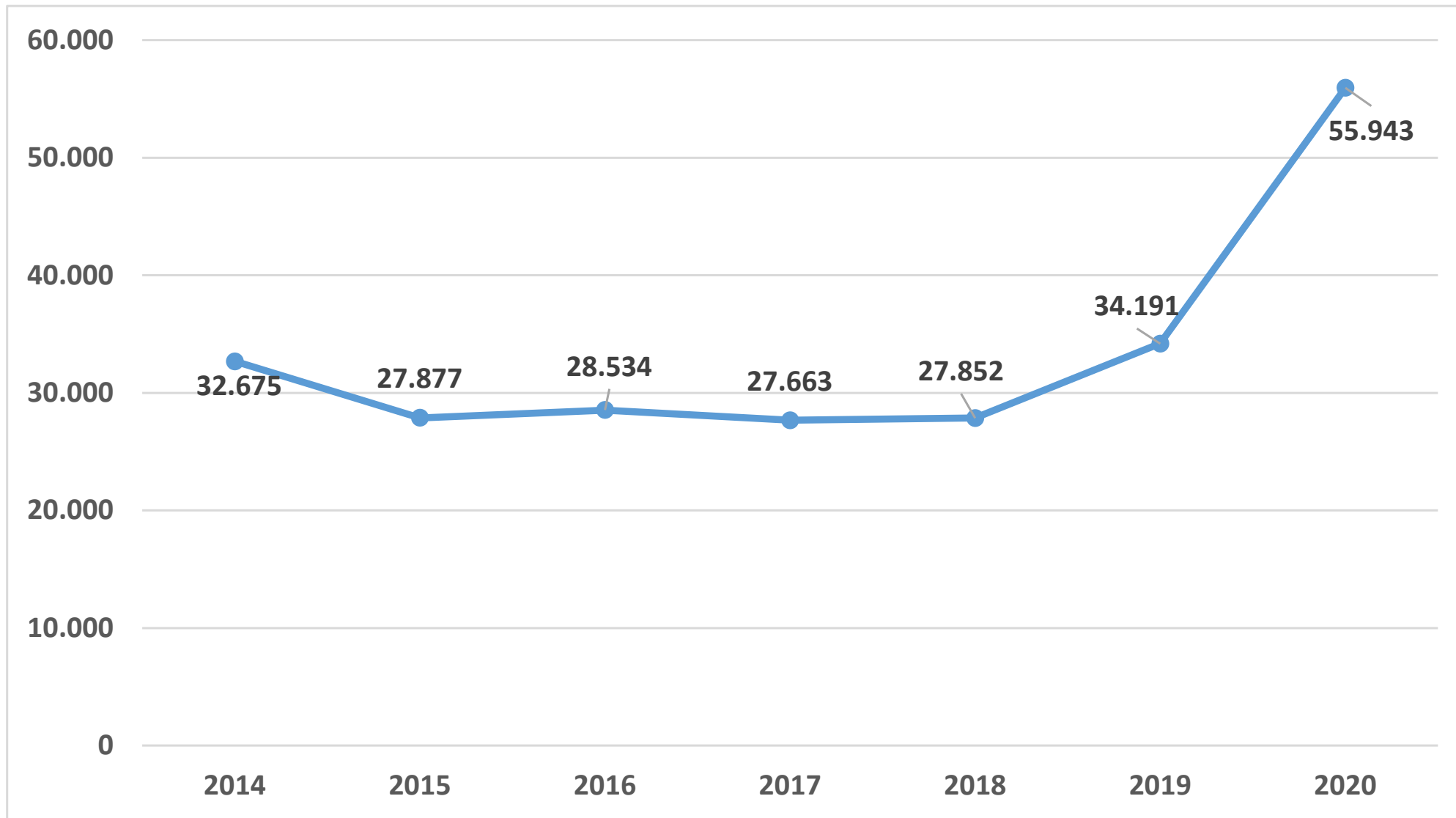
- In principle, the other nationality has to be renounced when acquiring Dutch nationality – there are exceptions to this rule

Access to nationality MIPEx score 2019

- “Halfway favourable” (57/100)



Total number of acquisitions of citizenship in the Netherlands



Law of 8 March 2017 on Luxembourgish nationality

Main requirements for ordinary naturalisation

- Period of residence of 5 years (last year must be uninterrupted)
- Language proficiency test (spoken test A2; listening test B1)
- Choice between citizenship course (24h) or citizenship test (course not needed)
- Good conduct

Policy on dual citizenship

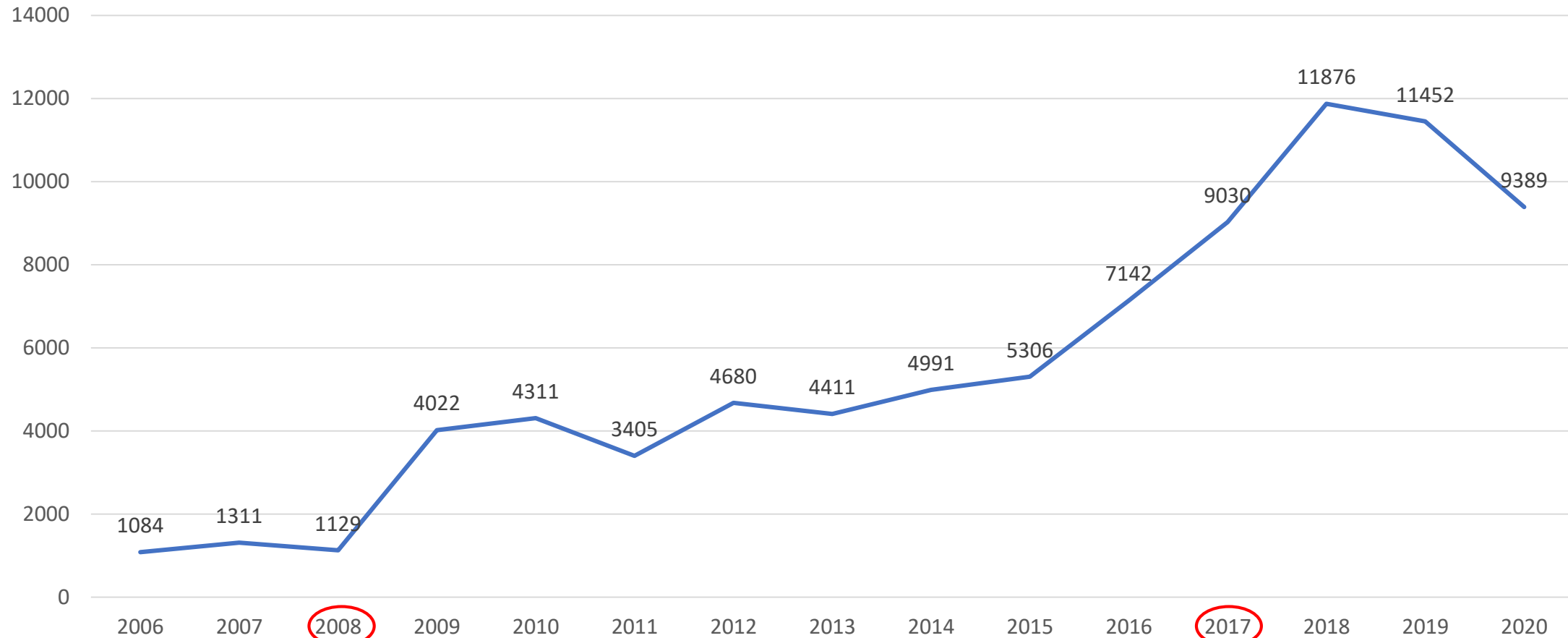
- Principle of multiple citizenship introduced by previous nationality law in 2009
(Law of 23 October 2008 on Luxembourgish nationality)

Access to nationality MIPEX score 2019

- “Slightly favourable” (79/100)



Total number of acquisitions of citizenship in Luxembourg



Law of 23 October 2008 on Luxembourgish nationality

Law of 8 March 2017 on Luxembourgish nationality



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Panel 2

EMN Sweden

- Bernd Parusel

EMN Finland

- Tuukka Lampi

EMN Ireland

- Michal Polakowski



Becoming a Swedish citizen

Main requirements for naturalisation

- Permanent and continuous residence (5 years as a main rule – with exceptions)
- Good conduct (forward-looking assessment, no criminal record or debt towards the Enforcement Authority)
- Proof of identity

Policy on dual citizenship

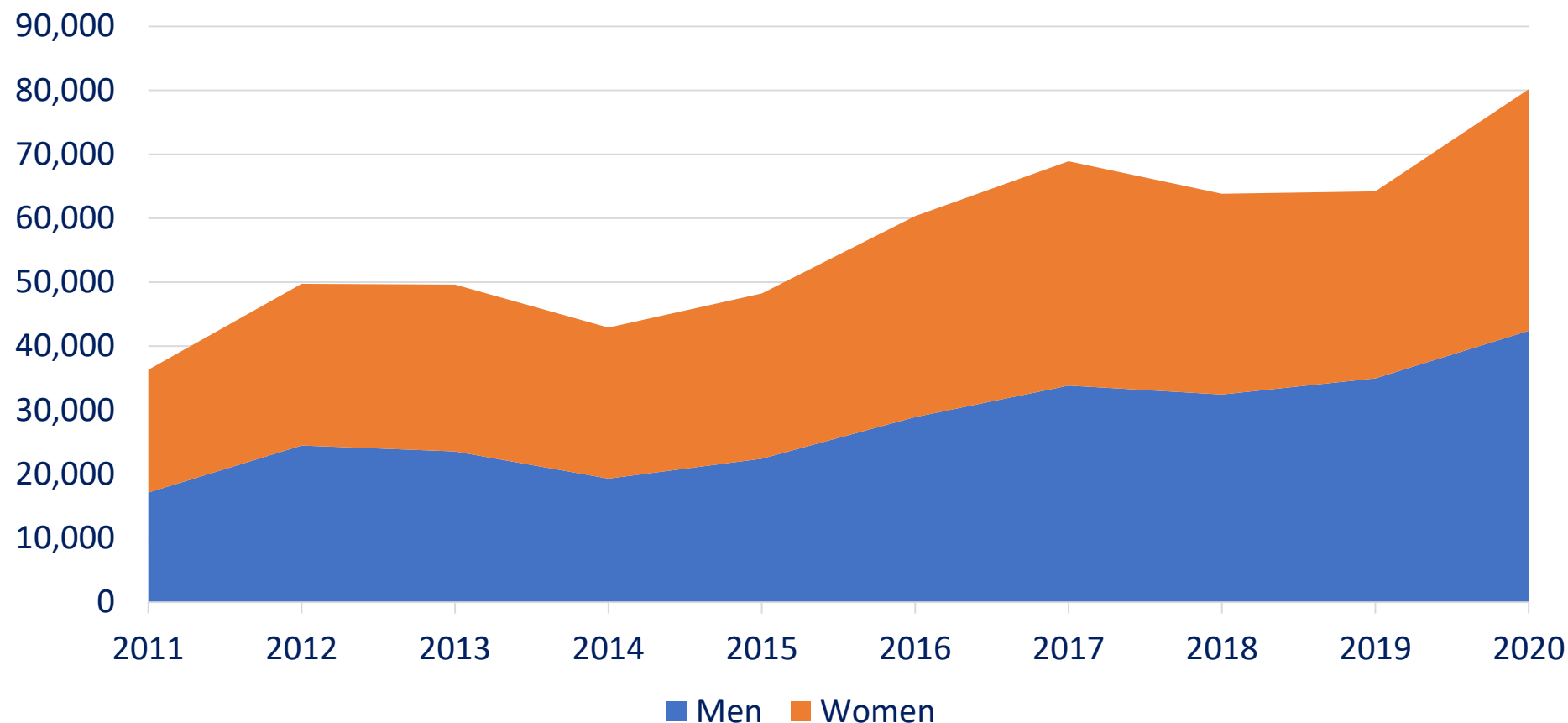
- Since 2001, migrants can retain their previous citizenship(s) when becoming Swedish citizens

Access to nationality MIPEx score 2019

- “Favourable” (83/100). “The application process is straightforward and new citizens are as secure in their status as Swedish-born citizens”



Acquisitions of Swedish citizenship, 2011-2020



10 main previous nationalities in 2020:

- Syria
- Iraq
- Stateless people
- Afghanistan
- Poland
- Eritrea
- United Kingdom
- Somalia
- Thailand
- Unknown

Nationality Act (359/2003)

Main requirements for ordinary naturalization

- Period of Residence (5 years uninterrupted or 7 with interruptions, reduced period for certain groups)
- Language (B1)
- Good conduct (no criminal record, restraining orders or unpaid public fees such as taxes)
- Reliable source of income (record of economic activity)
- Established identity (reliable documents or at least consistent personal information)

Policy on dual citizenship

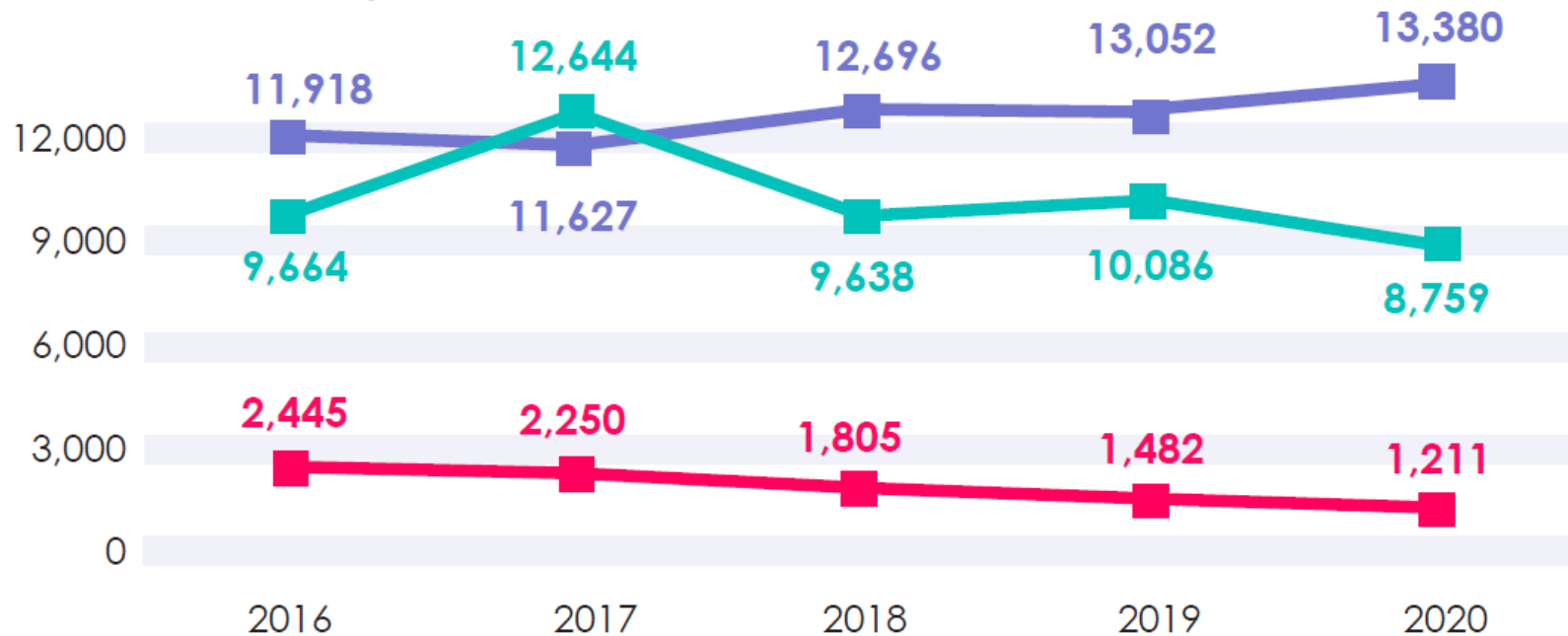
- Allowed in Finnish legislation since 2003, but since 2019 some restrictions posed for dual citizens (i.e. certain public offices). Dual citizenship subject of public debate in recent years, mostly national security concerns.




Access to nationality MIPEX score 2019

- “Slightly favourable” (74/100), Naturalization is a relatively simple procedure



**Citizenship applications, citizenship declarations and persons granted
Finnish citizenship, 2016–2020**



-  Citizenship applications and declarations
-  Negative decisions
-  Persons granted Finnish citizenship



Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956 (as amended)

Main conditions for naturalization

- Period of residence of 4 years (out of 8), and 1 year immediately before naturalization (only selected types of residence count towards the required period)
- Good character
- Intention to reside in the State
- Declaration of fidelity to the nation and loyalty to the State, to faithfully observe the laws of the State and to respect its democratic values.

Policy on dual citizenship

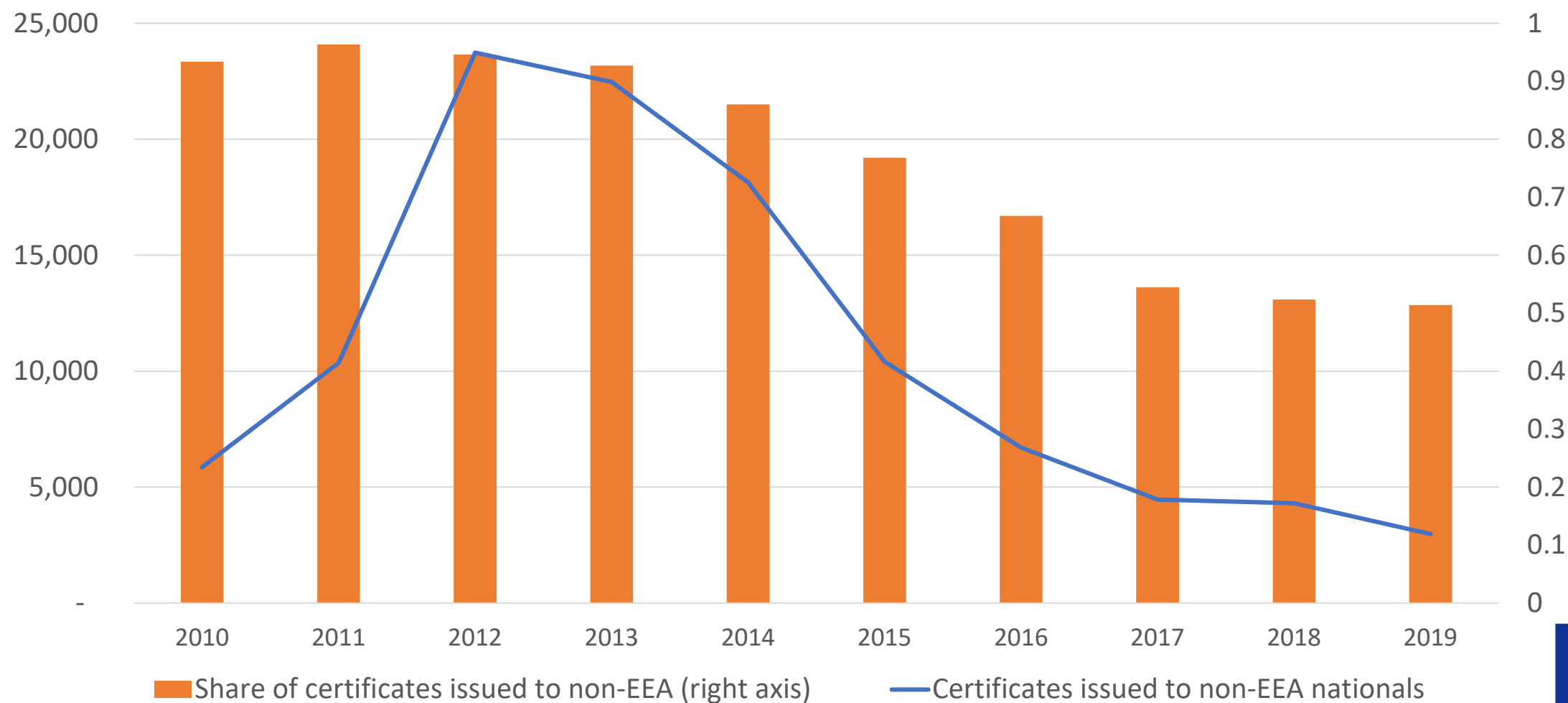
- Naturalisation applicants are not required to renounce citizenship of another country

Access to nationality MIPEX score 2019

- “Slightly favourable” (79/100)



Naturalisation certificates issued to non-EEA nationals, and share of non-EEA naturalisations in total



- **Criteria** for granting citizenship are similar, but specific conditions vary considerably
- **Policies** have been (and still are) evolving, becoming more liberal in some Member States, and more restrictive in others
- **Dual citizenship**: a demographic reality (17 countries)
- Citizenship is seen either as the culmination of the **integration** process or as facilitating integration



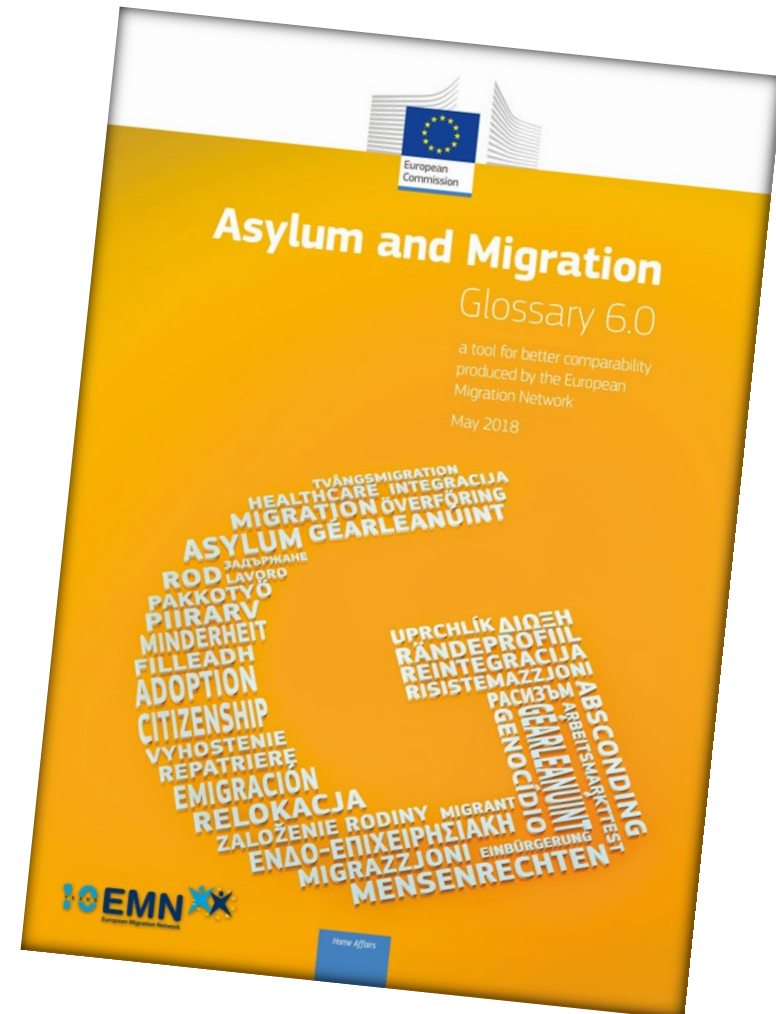
Thank you for your attention!



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