

# Second-generation immigrants and native attitudes toward immigrants in Europe

## Abstract

This paper investigates the role played by non-European immigrants and their offspring in shaping native attitudes toward immigrants in the European Union. By exploiting the 2017 Special Eurobarometer on immigrants' integration, we estimate the effects of first- and second-generation immigrants on a large set of attitudes related to crimes, economic concerns and culture. Our main empirical strategy combines cross-country variations and a novel instrument related to aerial bombing during WWII to account for the endogeneity of immigration. We find that that fiscal and security concerns are the main driving force behind the skepticism towards immigration. This finding is robust to estimating the native attitudinal responses due to the massive inflows of refugees coming in the EU over the period 2015-2017 and using distance from Greece as an instrument. Moreover, we show that the impact of the size of second-generation immigrants of non-European origin on pro-immigrant attitudes is negative, but always weaker than the impact due to non-European immigrants.

**Keywords:** immigration, second-generation immigrants, attitudes toward immigrants, public opinion

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