MAFE Migrations between Africa and Europe

Measuring immigration policies with the ImPol database and empirical tests with MAFE-Senegal Data

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ImPol-MAFE Database

- Aims
  - Database of immigration policies for France, Spain and Italy, ca.1960-2008
  - Qualitative information to inform MAFE analyses
  - Quantitative policy indicators that are comparable over time and across several countries
- Data sources and collection
  - More than 300 legal texts
  - International treaties, laws, decrees, circulars, instructions, and judgments; bilateral agreements – Senegal
  - Online legal archives; libraries/archives of ministries, civil society organisations;
  - Expert interviews only to discuss interpretation and to get access to some texts

Approach

1. Define the main policy areas: short stays; employment; family reunification/marriage; study; irregular entry
2. Establish a list of indicators (ca. 40 indicators completed so far)
3. Define ordinal categories for each indicator
4. Score policy in each year as more restrictive (-1), neutral (0), or less restrictive (1)

	-1	0	1
Economic resources requirement, family reunification	At least the level of the minimum social income or specific amount	More open conditions (adequate resources); Flexible way of considering the requirement proven	No requirement

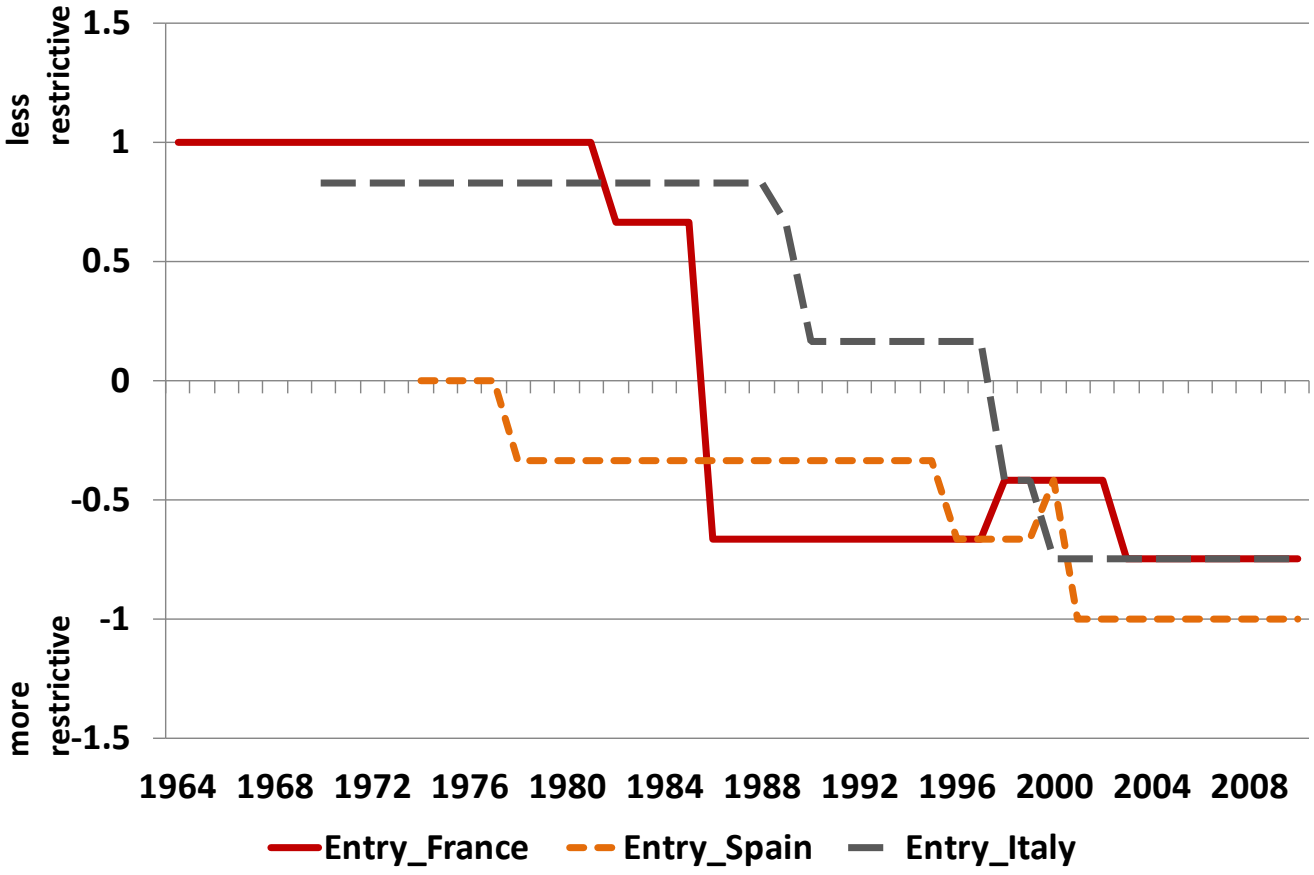
Aggregation of individual indicators

→ Depends on specific research question

- Choose only indicators relevant to analysis
- Decide on weighting
  - Explicitly
  - By averaging in several steps

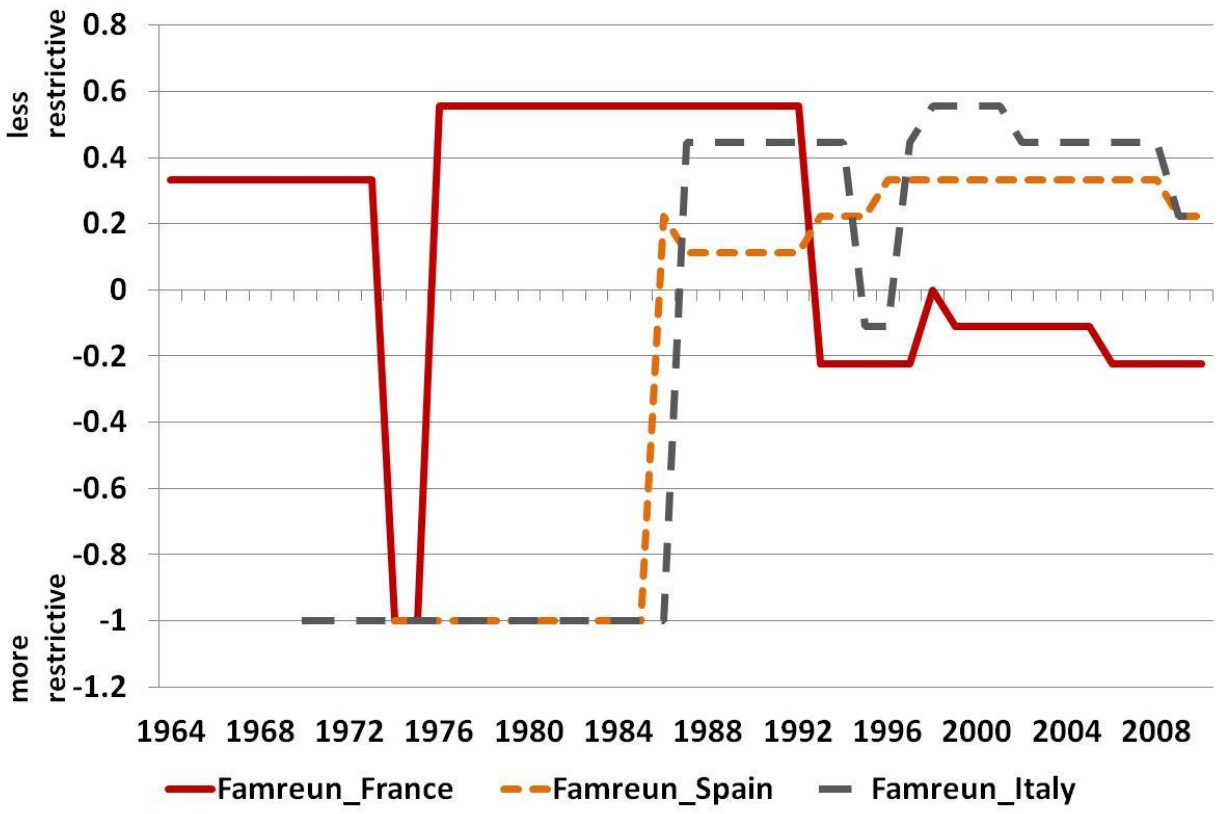
Examples of aggregation – Short stays

- Subset 1: Tourist visa exemptions; motivation of visa refusals
- Subset 2: Requirements: economic resources requirements; housing requirements; health insurance requirements



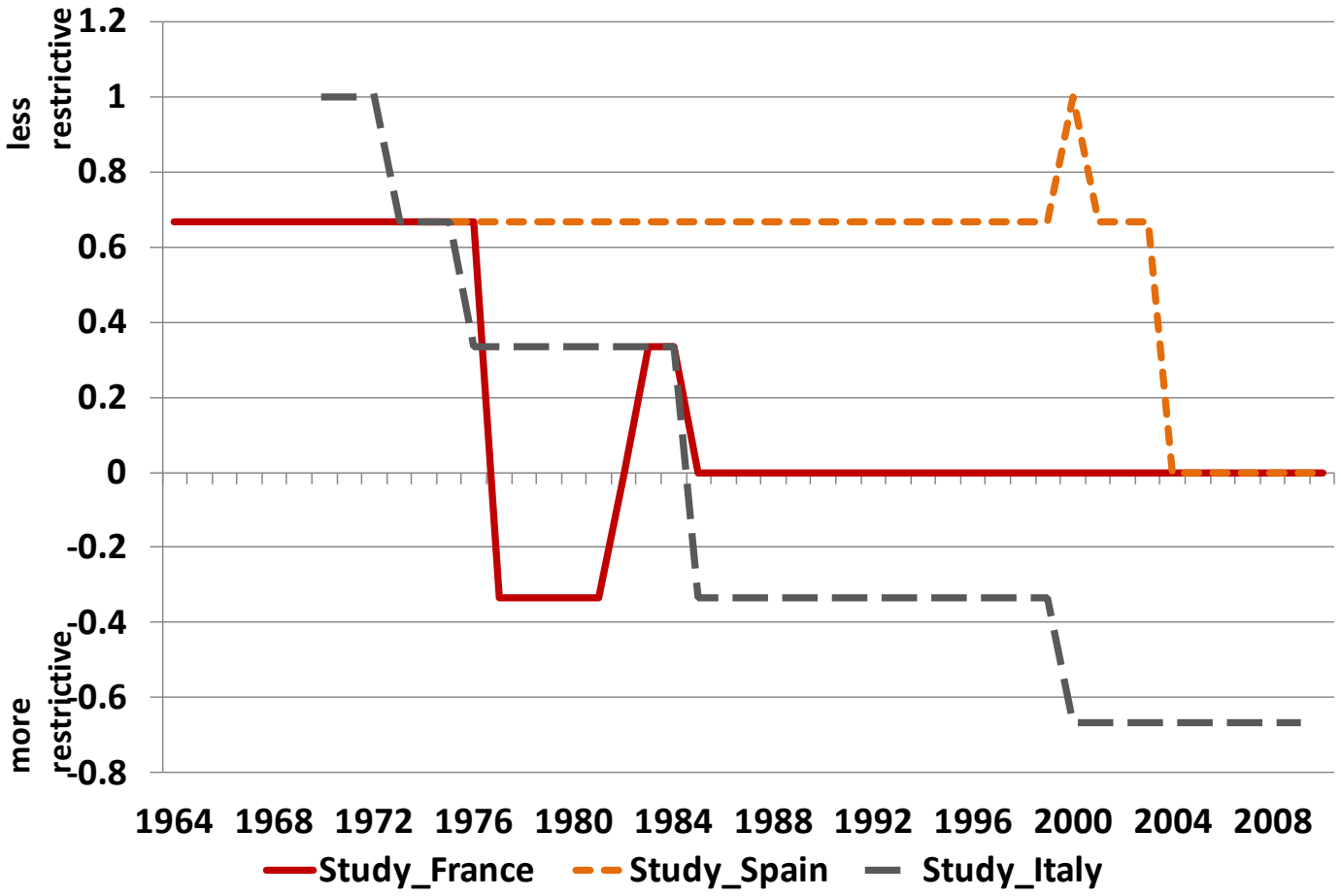
Examples of aggregation – Family reunification

- Subset 1: **Legal protection** of family reunification
- Subset 2: **Requirements:** duration of residence requirement; economic resources requirements; housing requirements
- Subset 3: **Eligibility:** eligibility for family members in the ascending line; prohi ssible



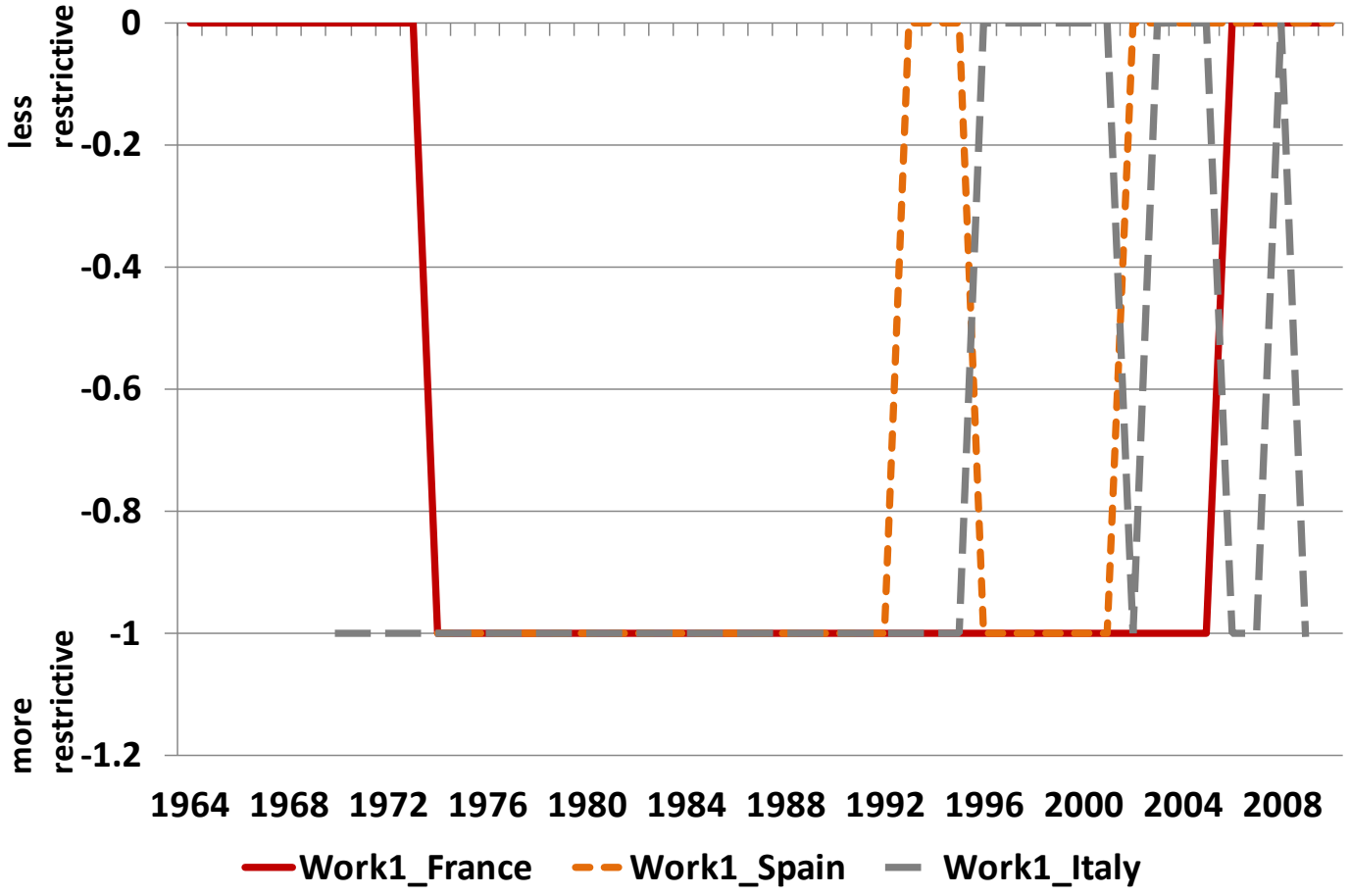
Examples of aggregation – Study

- Subset 1: Requirements in terms of admission; economic resources; health insurance



Examples of aggregation – Work 1

- Subset 1: Restrictions to work immigration
  - (-1: national employment clause; 0: list of occupations, true quotas , or authorisation necessary previous to entry; 0: more open conditions).



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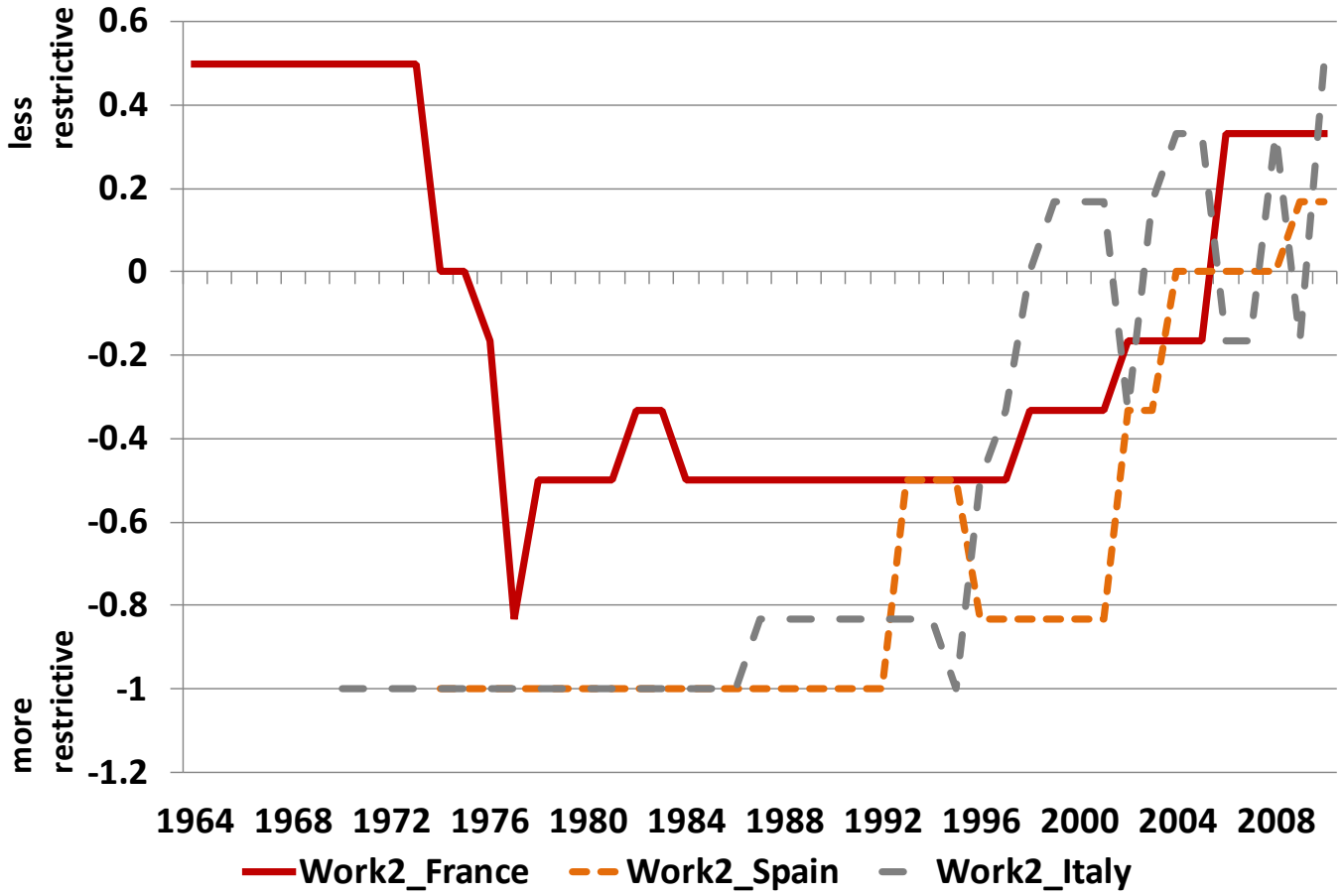
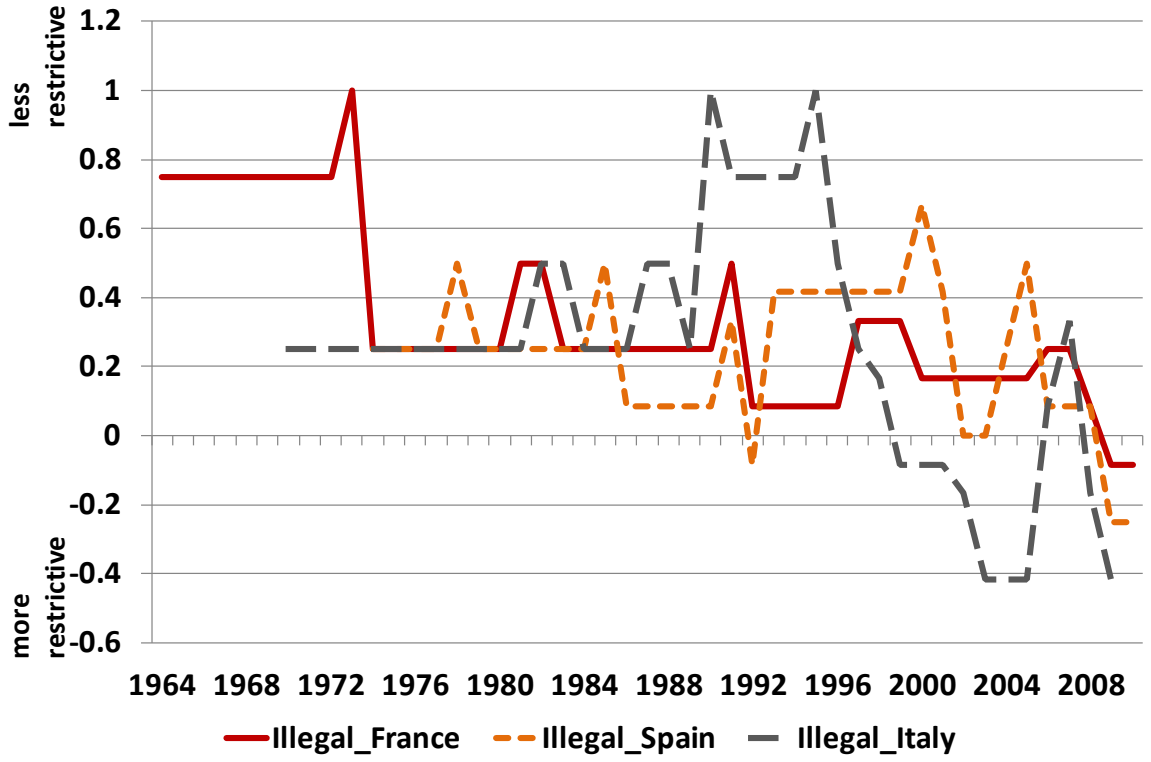
Examples of aggregation – Work 2

- **Subset 1 + Subset 2:** access to the labour market for family members and students (during studies; after studies)



Examples of aggregation – Irregular migration

- **Subset 1:** Readmission agreements signed/in force with Senegal; readmission agreements signed/in force with main transit countries; maximum duration of stay in administrative retention centres
- **Subset 2:** Extraordinary regularisation (application process ongoing); permanent regularisation



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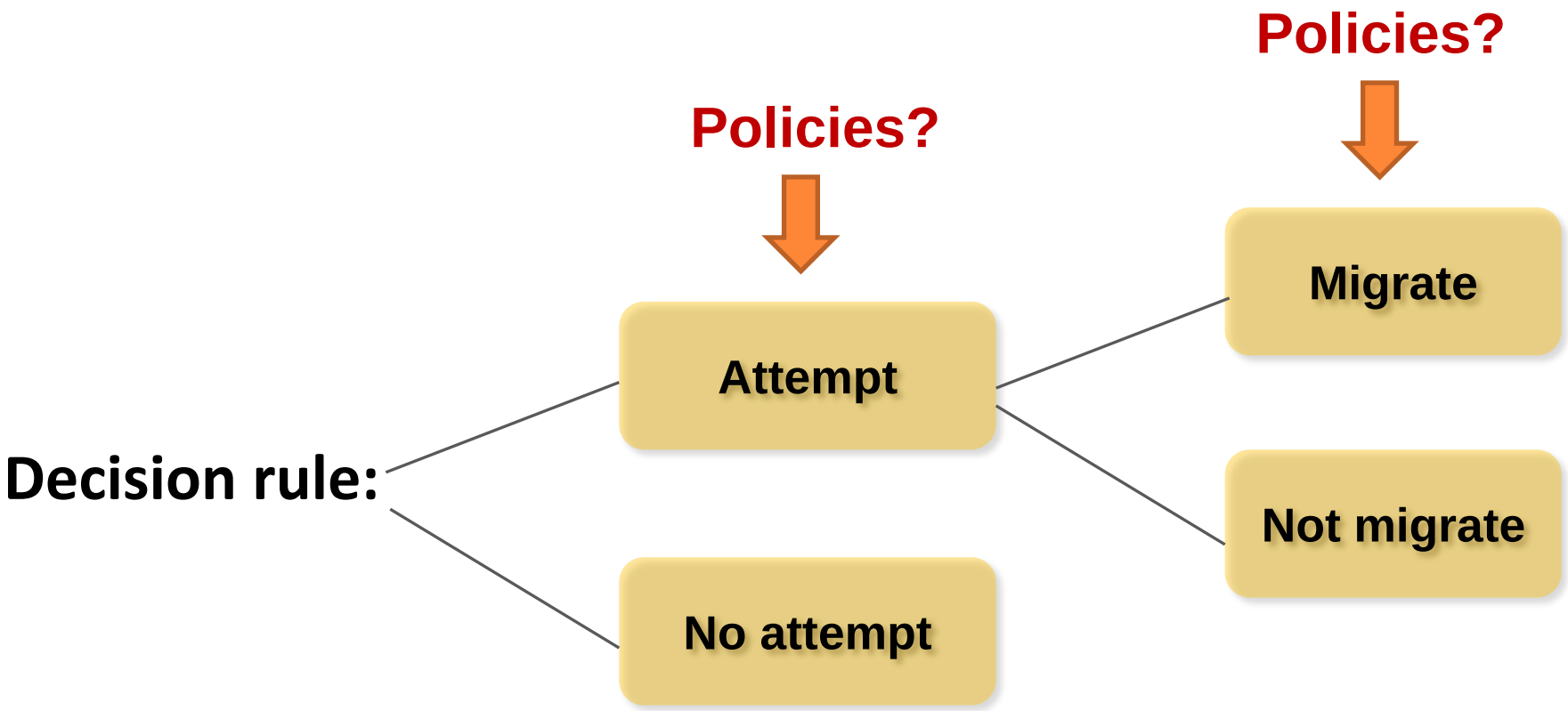
Empirical test – Determinants of departure

- Discrete-time event-history analysis of first departure to France (1964-2008), Spain (1974-2008) or Italy (1970-2008)
- Separate logistic regressions on person-year data

	France	Italy	Spain
Illegal entry & stay policy	4.25**	1.51	0.73
Short stay entry policy	1.43**	1.23	0.71
Family reunification policy	1.34	1.89*	0.76
Work immigration policy	0.40**	1.27	0.19**
Study entry policy	1.75	§	§

Controls: age/time; sex; education; occupation; HH resources; network members at destination; § - not included

Empirical test – Migration attempt vs. migration



Construction of policy variables

- Attempt equation
  - Average across three destination countries ≈ “destination Europe”
- Migration equation
  - One variable per policy; takes value of envisaged destination country
  - Coefficients constrained to be the same for France, Spain, Italy

Individual	Year	Policy Migration
ID_{FR}	2000	FamreunFR2000
ID_{SP}	2000	FamreunSP2000
ID_{IT}	2000	FamreunIT2000
…	…	…

Selected results

	Outcome: Attempt	Outcome: Migration
Illegal entry & stay policy	**-**	**+**
Short stay entry policy	**N.S.**	**+**
Family reunification policy	**N.S.**	**(+)**
Work immigration policy	**N.S.**	**N.S.**

- **Other explanatory variables:** time/age; household resources; occupational status; religion; marital status; children; brother lives in household; attempt motive and steps taken; inflation rate in Senegal; change in GDP per capita ratio between destination (region) and Senegal; change in unemployment rate at destination

Comments, issues – Empirical tests

- Effects of other countries' policies?
- Integrate in analyses with different dependent variables
  - Destination choice?
  - Undocumented/documented migration?
- Different aggregations/weighting?
- Lags?
- Macro variables in micro analyses?
- Policy discourse – inputs – enforcement – outcomes:
  - What can/should we measure?
  - What type of information reaches potential migrants?

Possible developments of ImPol

- New indicators
  - In the area of currently covered themes
  - Extend to conditions of stay
- New countries
  - Destination
  - Origin
- Integration with other projects in this area…
- (Partial) validation using outcome-based policy measures

Thank you! Comments, questions…

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METHODS

- ***Bivariate probit model with duration model in selection equation:*** joint estimation of attempt equation with discrete-time set-up; migration equation as binary outcome
- Large set of **time-varying explanatory variables** to capture context (incl. **policy variables**), resources, family and life-cycle factors
- In migration equation, but not in attempt equation: **attempt characteristics**
- In attempt equation, but not migration equation: **exclusion restrictions** (inflation rate at origin, brother in HH, children)

	Outcome: Attempt	Outcome: Migration
Non-attempters (n=925)	No (=0)	Not observed
Failed attempts (n=102)	Yes (=1)	No (=0)
Successful attempters (n=641)	Yes (=1)	Yes (=1)