

The EUDO CITIZENSHIP Observatory

- General goal
 - comprehensive and systematic comparison of acquisition and loss of citizenship status in EU Member States and neighbouring countries
- Main tools
 - country reports (currently 36)
 - national and international legal databases
 - typology of modes of acquisition and loss
 - naturalisation statistics
 - comparative analyses
 - debating forum, news section, working papers, bibliography, etc.



Maastricht University



Recent reforms in EU Member States



Citizenship reforms more frequent and highly politicized: major policy changes since March 2010 in Greece, Belgium, Hungary, Slovakia

- Greek law 11 March: easier naturalisation and ius soli for 2nd and 3rd generations
- Belgian bill 9 April: from 3 to 5 years residence requirement for naturalisation + language test
- Hungarian law 26 May: facilitated naturalisation of Hungarian minorities abroad without residence requirement
- Slovak law 26 May: automatic withdrawal of Slovak citizenship when acquiring a foreign one

Citizenship policies – a common concern for the EU?







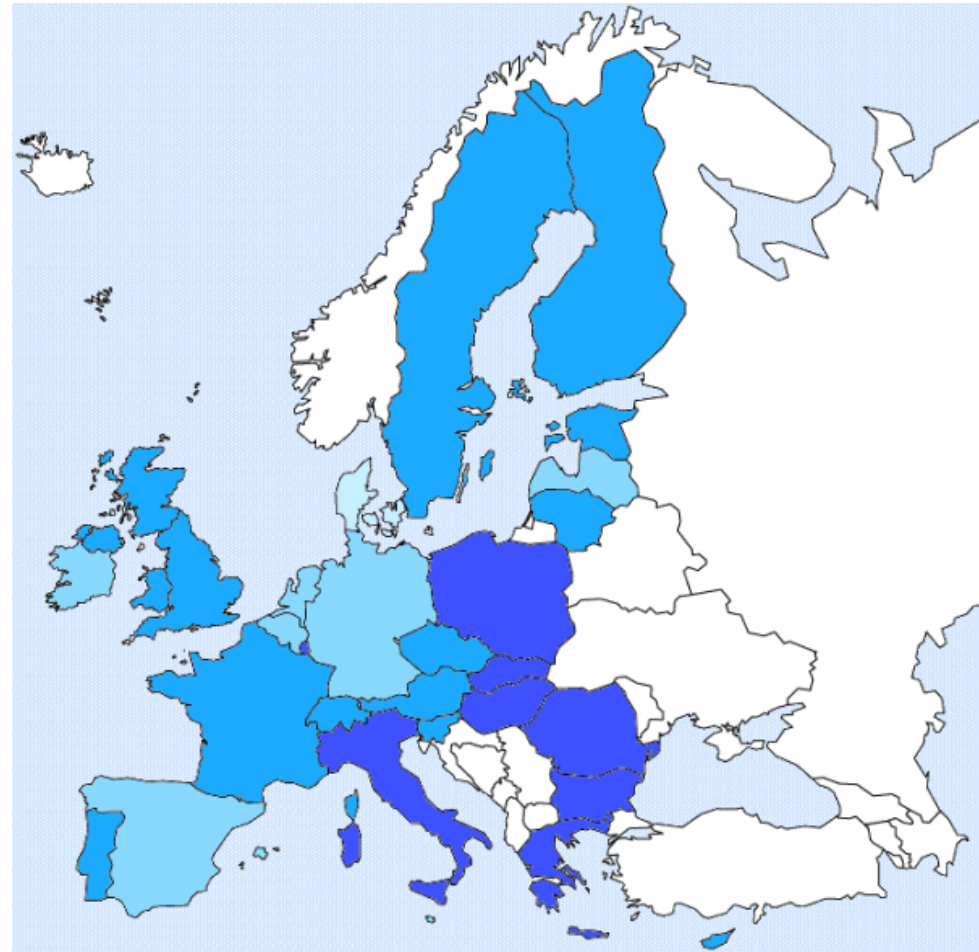
- tension between free movement and residence criteria for acquisition and loss
- integration of third country nationals (Tampere agenda Oct 1999, CBP Nov 2004)
- EU citizens in other Member States: low rates of naturalisation and political participation
- external access to Member State nationality and EU citizenship through:
 - unconditional ius soli (abolished in Ireland 2004, ECJ Chen case 2004)
 - unconditional ius sanguinis abroad (17 MS)
 - facilitated naturalisation for co-ethnics abroad

Expansive Citizenship in the EU

Legal obstacles for external citizenship retention or acquisition:

- loss because of long-term residence abroad
- loss with acquisition of a foreign citizenship abroad
- conditional ius sanguinis abroad

-  maximally expansive (0 obstacles)
-  strongly expansive (0.5 – 1 obstacles)
-  weakly expansive (1.5 - 2 obstacles)
-  least expansive (2.5 - 3 obstacles)



Trends in Citizenship Policies in Europe I: acceptance of multiple citizenship



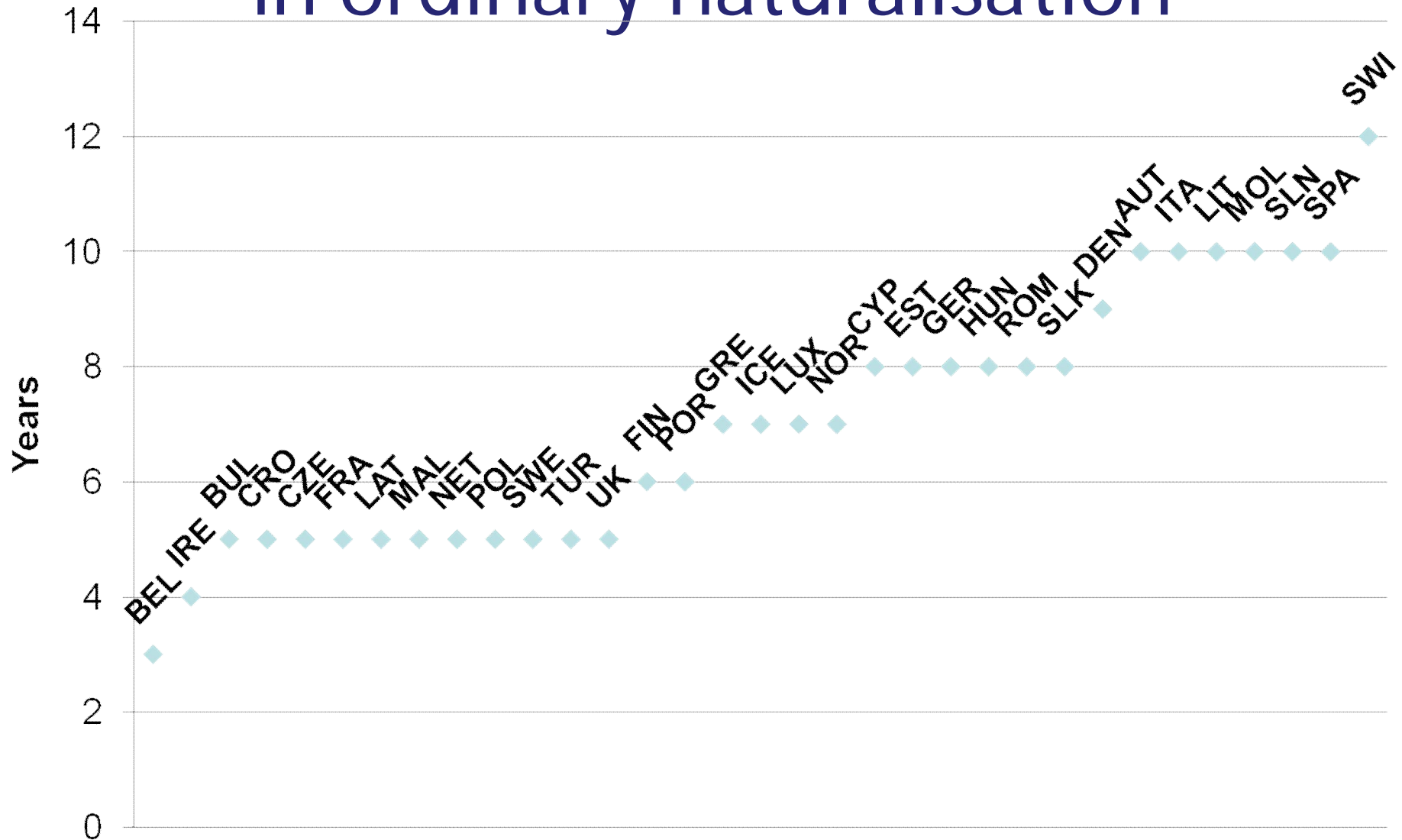
- Abolishing the requirement to renounce one's previous citizenship as a condition for naturalisation
 - Ex. Sweden (2001), Finland (2003), Luxembourg (2009)
- Abolishing the automatic loss of citizenship due to voluntary acquisition of another citizenship
 - Ex. Iceland (2003), Belgium (2008) + above
- Denunciation of 1963 Strasbourg Convention (Chapter 1) on Reduction of Multiple Nationality
 - Now only left: Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway

Trends in Citizenship Policies in Europe II: restriction of naturalisation conditions



- Residence requirements
 - Mixed trend
 - Great variety: from 3 (Belgium) to 12 years (Swi)
- Introduction/restriction integration conditions
 - Language (+ test)
 - Civic knowledge (+ test)
- Increasing costs of naturalisation
 - Great variety: from 0 to 1300 euro (Greece)

Residency requirements in ordinary naturalisation



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Language requirements

Difficulty raised <i>(e.g. level, pass rate)</i>								AUT	DEN		DEN								
Certification or test	SLN		EST	LUX	AUT	FIN				POR		NOR							BEL
			GER		DEN	NET													
					UK														
Informal interview	DEN	AUT	GRE																
	FRA																		
	NET																		
	UK																		
Requirement removed	...	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010						
			BEL																

Civic knowledge requirements

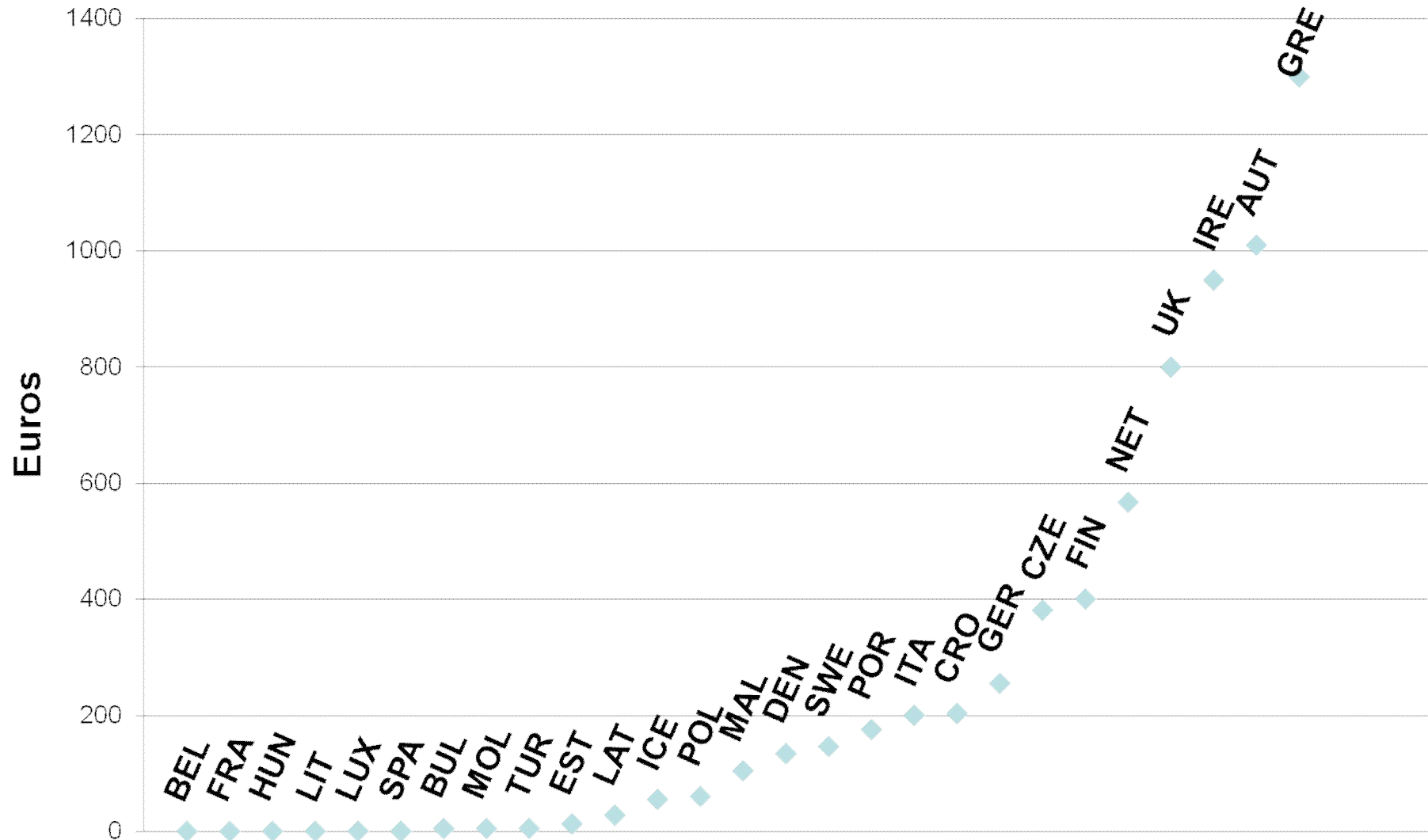
Difficulty raised <i>(e.g. level, pass rate)</i>									LAT	DEN			
Certification or test	EST				NET		AUT	DEN		GER		GRE	
	HUN												
	LAT												
	LIT												
	MOL												
Informal interview	SLK	GRE		DEN	FRA						LUX		
	SWI												
	TUR												
Requirement removed	...	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010

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Naturalisation fees



Trends in Citizenship Policies in Europe III: towards a less secure status



Conditional acquisition

- German ius soli (renunciation between 18-23, first group covered by transitional provision in 2013)

Deprivation of citizenship

- fraud (eg Rottmann)
- serious crimes, terrorism

European Convention on Nationality provides explicit criteria for admissible grounds for loss of citizenship (ratified already by twenty countries, incl. Montenegro)

Questions



Rainer Bauböck
European University Institute
rainer.baubock@eui.eu

Jo Shaw
University of Edinburgh
jo.shaw@ed.ac.uk

Maarten Vink
Maastricht University
m.vink@maastrichtuniversity.nl