



# Managing Migration in the EU Welfare State

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# Critical aspects of immigration into the EU

- 1 - The pattern of immigration into the EU
- 2 - European attitudes towards immigration
- 3 - The impact of immigration on the welfare state
- 4 - EU migration policy and enlargement





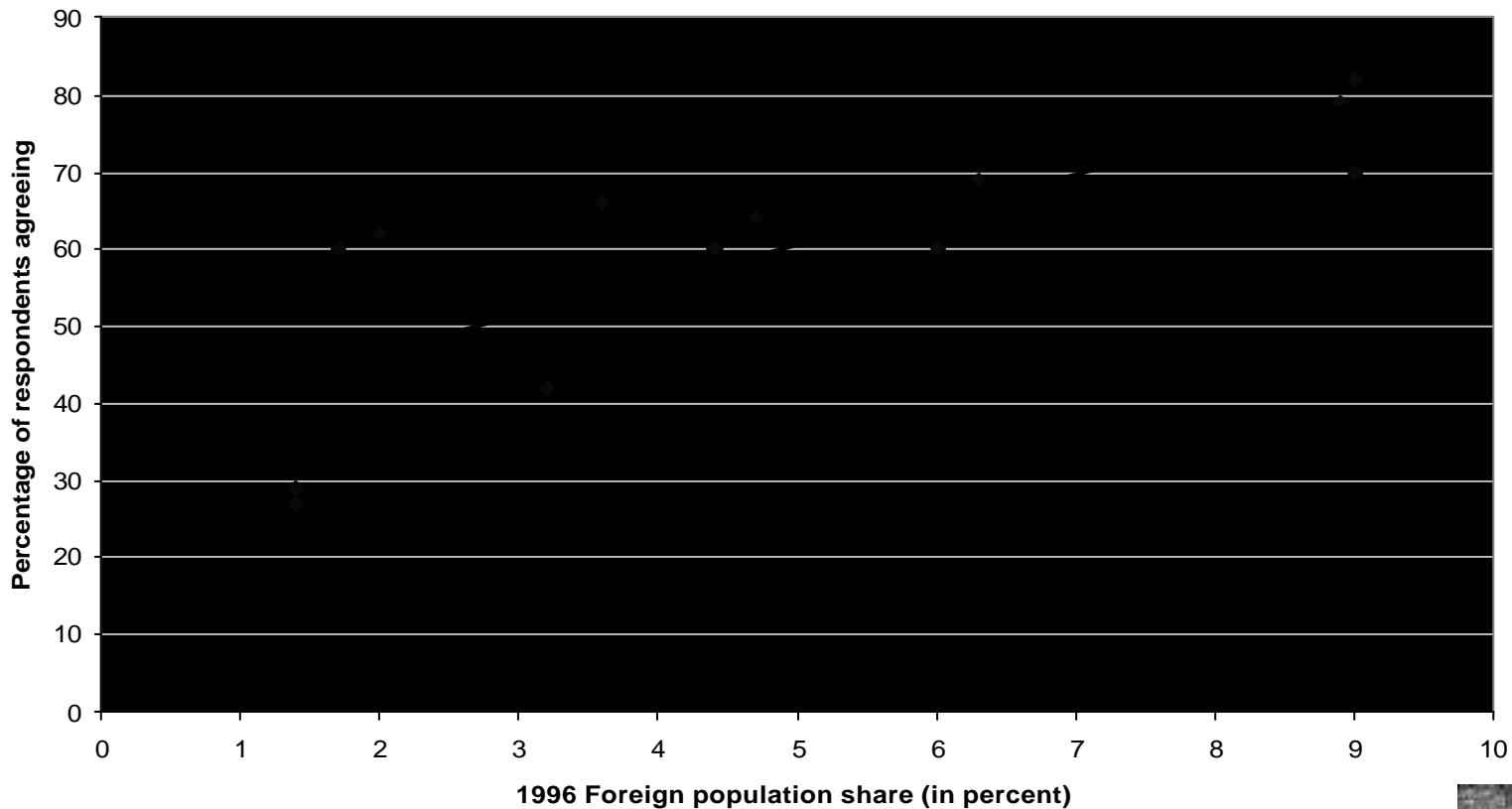
# 1. Patterns of Migration

- Net legal immigration into the EU high in the 1990's, averaging 2.2 legal migrants per 1000 inhabitants (4.7 in Western Europe) compared with 3.0 in the US.
- EU *illegal* migration is estimated at about 500,000 per annum: more than 40% of immigration is illegal compared with a number between 17 and 20 percent in the US



# 2 - European Attitudes Towards Immigration

Figure 2.7: Percentage of respondents agreeing that further immigration would cause problems domestically by 1996 foreign population share

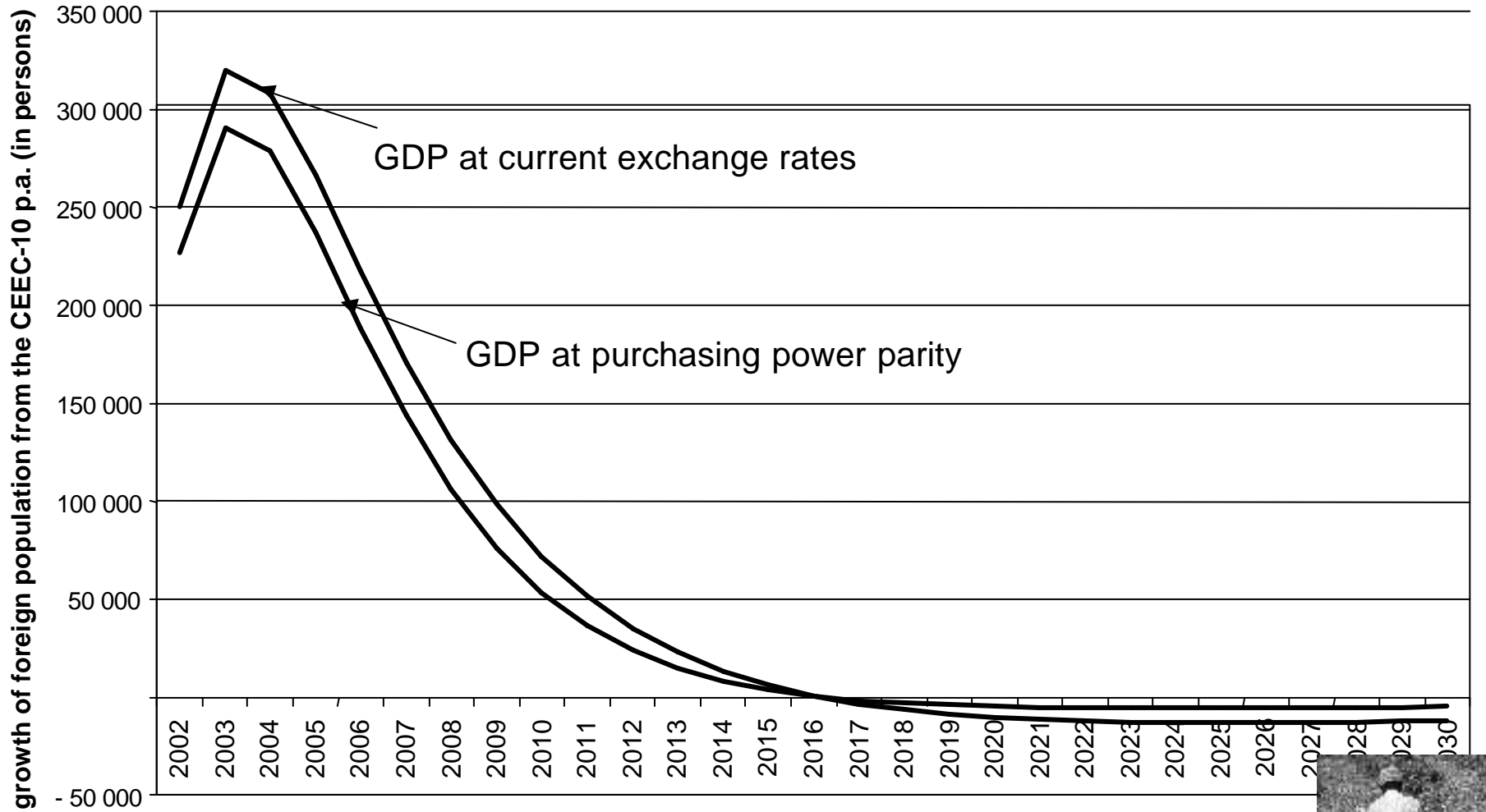


### 3- Immigration and the Welfare State:

- Stronger perception that minority groups abuse welfare in countries with higher foreign population
- True? Dependency ratios in foreign population are high relative to natives and in some cases are increasing (e.g Germany share of foreigners among recipients was 8.3 in 1980 and 23.5 in 1996 while the foreign population share rose from 7.2% to 8.9% over the same period)



# 4 - EU Enlargement





# Summarising Europe vs. US : Facts and Perceptions

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- In Europe more opposition than in the US to accept more migrants (majority for zero migration) and proportionally more *illegal* migration (+20-25%) than in the US
- Vicious circle: overstrict migration policies generate illegal flows, which in turn would feed opposition to migration
- This can get worse with enlargement as EU borders will become more porous
- Ways out? Any lessons from the US?

