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Summary indicator on the strictness of migration policy

Short description of the original units and assignment of numerical scores								
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number of admission requirements								
0	if 2 req. + 1 (if means of subsistence required)							
1	if 3 req. + 1 (if means of subsistence required)			[Scale (0-2) +1]x 2				
2	if 4 req. + 1 (if means of subsistence required)							
Duration of the first stay								
2	if residence permit required before the entrance			before				
4	if residence permit required after the entrance						after	
Staying requirements								
0	if 1 req. + 1 (if means of subsistence required)							
1	if 2 req. + 1 (if means of subsistence required)			[Scale(0-3)] x 3/2				
2	if 3 req. + 1 (if means of subsistence required)							
3	if 4 req. + 1 (if means of subsistence required)							
Years to obtain a permanent residence permit		≤ 3	≤ 5	≤ 7	≤ 9	≤ 11	> 11	no permit
Number of administrations involved								
2	only one document			one		two		
4	two different administrations and two different documents (residence permit and work permit)							
Quotas								
2	no quotas			yes		no		
4	quotas							

For each country, migration policy is described along 6 different dimensions, regarding both admission procedures and staying requirements. Starting from these 6 basic items, we developed a cardinal summary indicator of the strictness of migration policy that allows us to make comparisons across countries and between different years.
The 6 dimensions were initially expressed either in different units or in an ordinal scale specific to each item. To make those measures comparable, we converted them in cardinal scores and we normalized to a range from 0 to 6, with higher score representing stricter regulation. Finally, as a last step, we computed an overall summary indicator for each country, adding the values of the six sub-indexes.