



Making migration and migration policy decisions
amidst societal transformations

PREFERENCES FOR MIGRATION POLICIES: SLOVAKIA IN A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

PACES Bratislava Public Event

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Introduction

What are European migration policy preferences?

- ✓ Fieldwork conducted (2025) with 9,000 respondents (1,500 per country)
- ✓ nationally representative sample
- ✓ Austria, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden
- ✓ Observe attitudes towards immigration
- ✓ Experimentally elicit migration policy preferences

Survey Questions :

"Is [country] made a worse or a better place to live by people coming to live here from other countries?"

"Is [country]'s cultural life generally undermined or enriched by people coming to live here from other countries?"

"Most people who come to live here work and pay taxes. They also use health and welfare services. On balance, do you think people who come here take out more than they put in or put in more than they take out?"

"Are [country]'s crime problems made worse or better by people coming to live here from other countries?"

"Would you say that people who come to live here generally take jobs away from workers in [country], or generally help to create new jobs?"

Each response ranges from 0 (most negative) to 10 (most positive).

Survey Results

The majority of Slovaks have moderate opinions towards immigration.

Public Attitudes Toward Immigration by Country (%)

Country	Negative	Moderate/Neutral	Positive
Austria	36.03	55.45	8.52
Italy	19.14	64.97	15.89
Netherlands	23.68	63.65	12.67
Slovakia	25.68	63.13	11.18
Spain	20.34	60.27	19.40
Sweden	27.89	54.08	18.03
Pooled	25.45	60.26	14.29

Source: PACES survey (2025): 9,000 respondents (1,500 per country) in nationally representative samples in Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden.

Survey Results

This is driven by ambivalence rather than true centrism.

Distribution of respondents' immigration attitudes by country

Country	Diverse choice of attitudes (%)	Always chose 5 (neutral) (%)
Austria	95.09	4.91
Italy	90.11	9.89
Netherlands	95.26	4.74
Slovakia	90.60	9.40
Spain	92.09	7.91
Sweden	93.23	6.77
Total	92.66	7.34

Source: PACES survey (2025): 9,000 respondents (1,500 per country) in nationally representative samples in Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden.

Survey Results

Slovaks moderately ambivalent about immigration span gender, age, and politics.

Moderate Immigration Attitudes: Demographic and Political Composition by Country (%)

Country	Gender		Age Group				Political Views		
	Male	Female	15–29	30–44	45–59	60–86	Conservative	Moderate	Progressive
Austria	46.57	53.43	22.14	33.43	23.01	21.42	18.17	22.30	59.53
Italy	49.00	51.00	17.59	34.44	26.18	21.79	14.85	24.85	60.30
Netherlands	46.71	53.29	17.05	28.41	26.71	27.83	17.70	26.42	55.88
Slovakia	50.89	49.11	21.60	25.36	28.07	24.97	38.64	24.52	36.84
Spain	47.95	52.05	15.75	27.79	36.93	19.53	20.38	28.56	51.06
Sweden	46.14	53.86	15.81	37.28	22.16	24.75	27.86	31.92	40.21
Pooled	47.96	52.04	18.32	30.95	27.32	23.41	22.78	26.19	51.03

Source: PACES survey (2025): 9,000 respondents (1,500 per country) in nationally representative samples in Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden.

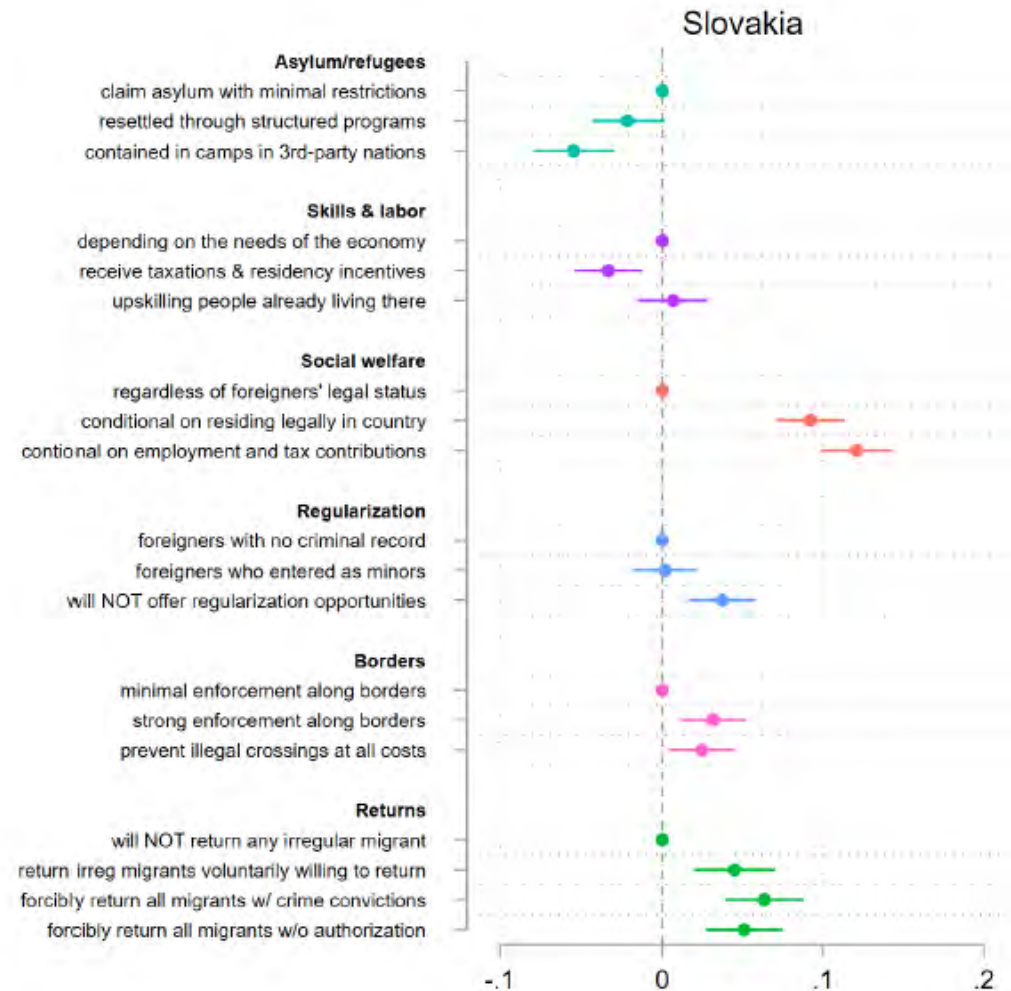
Experimental Results

Slovakians tend to support migration policies that:

- Strong border control
- Facilitate return migration
- Conditional welfare benefits
- Do not offer regularization

And penalize policies that:

- Containing asylum seekers in third country camps
- Incentivize migration through taxes and residency schemes



Source: PACES survey (2025): 9,000 respondents (1,500 per country) in nationally representative samples in Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden.

Conclusions

- Beyond regularization, Slovak policy preferences closely resemble those observed in the other five countries
- Substantial share of respondents hold moderate yet ambivalent views on immigration, cutting across age, gender, and political orientations
- Moderates tend to abdicate discretion to formal state control and legal regulation of migration

Evidence Session – Q&A



Simona Vezzoli, Postdoctoral Researcher, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Lucia Kováčová, Researcher, Institute for Forecasting, Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences, Slovak Academy of Sciences



María Jesús Cabezón Fernández, Associate Professor, Department of Human Geography, University of Alicante

Anne-Marie Jeannet, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Milan





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Armchair Discussion

Policy at the Crossroads: Reconciling Evidence with Practice



Valon Halimi, Chief of Mission, International
Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia



Lucia Mýtna Kureková, Senior Researcher, Institute for
Forecasting, Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences,
Slovak Academy of Sciences



Alan Le Van, Integration Officer, Support
Centre for Foreigners, City of Trnava

Thank you for joining us!



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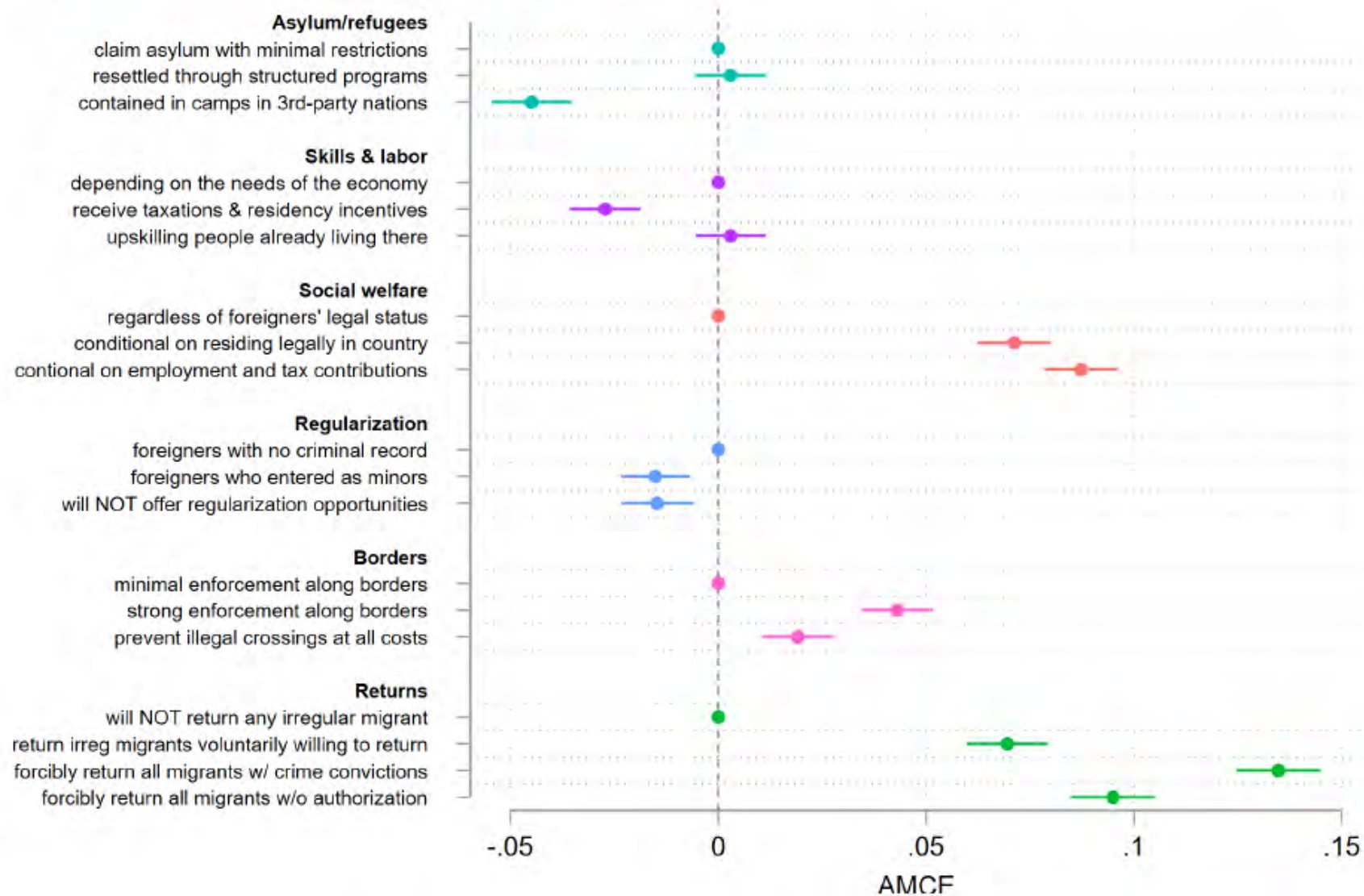
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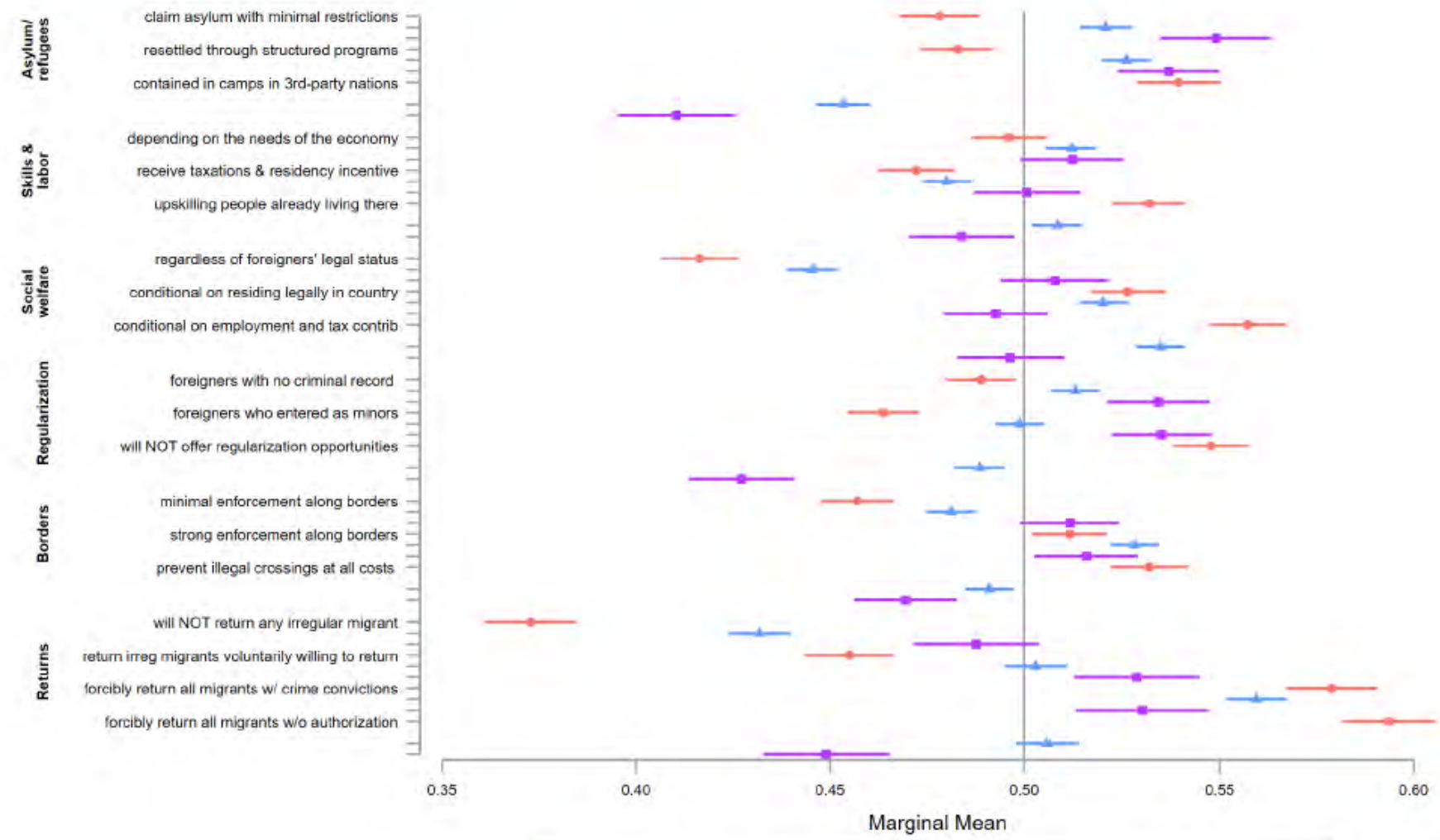
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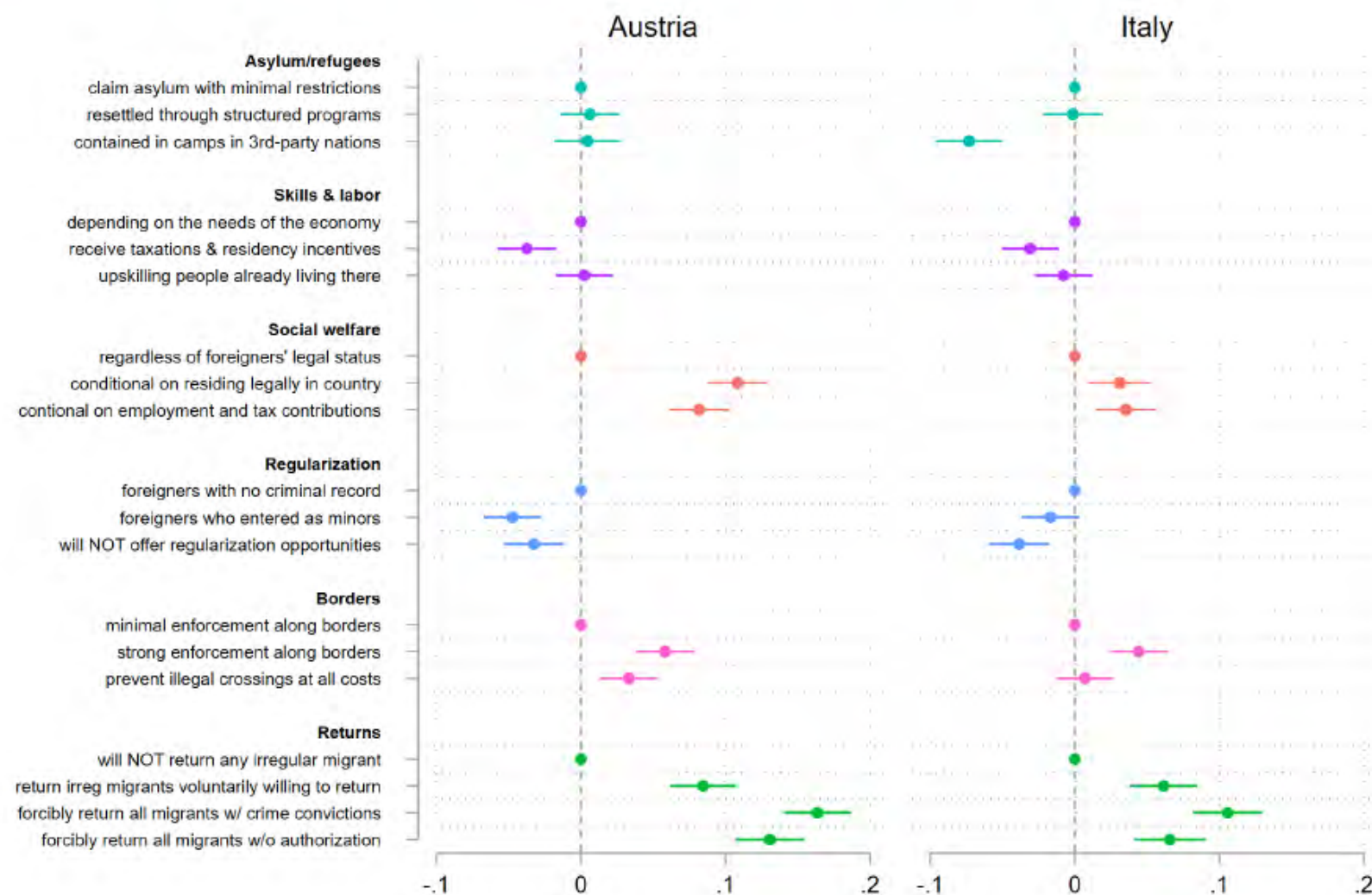
Conjoint Experiment: aggregate-level results



Conjoint Experiment: Heterogenous Results



Conjoint Experiment: Austria and Italy



Conjoint Experiment: Spain and Sweden

