



Polish migrants in the Netherlands





Will the Netherlands be facing a new minority problem?



- Number of Poles in the Netherlands/immigration and emigration
- Temporary or settlement migration?
- Socio-economic and socio-cultural position



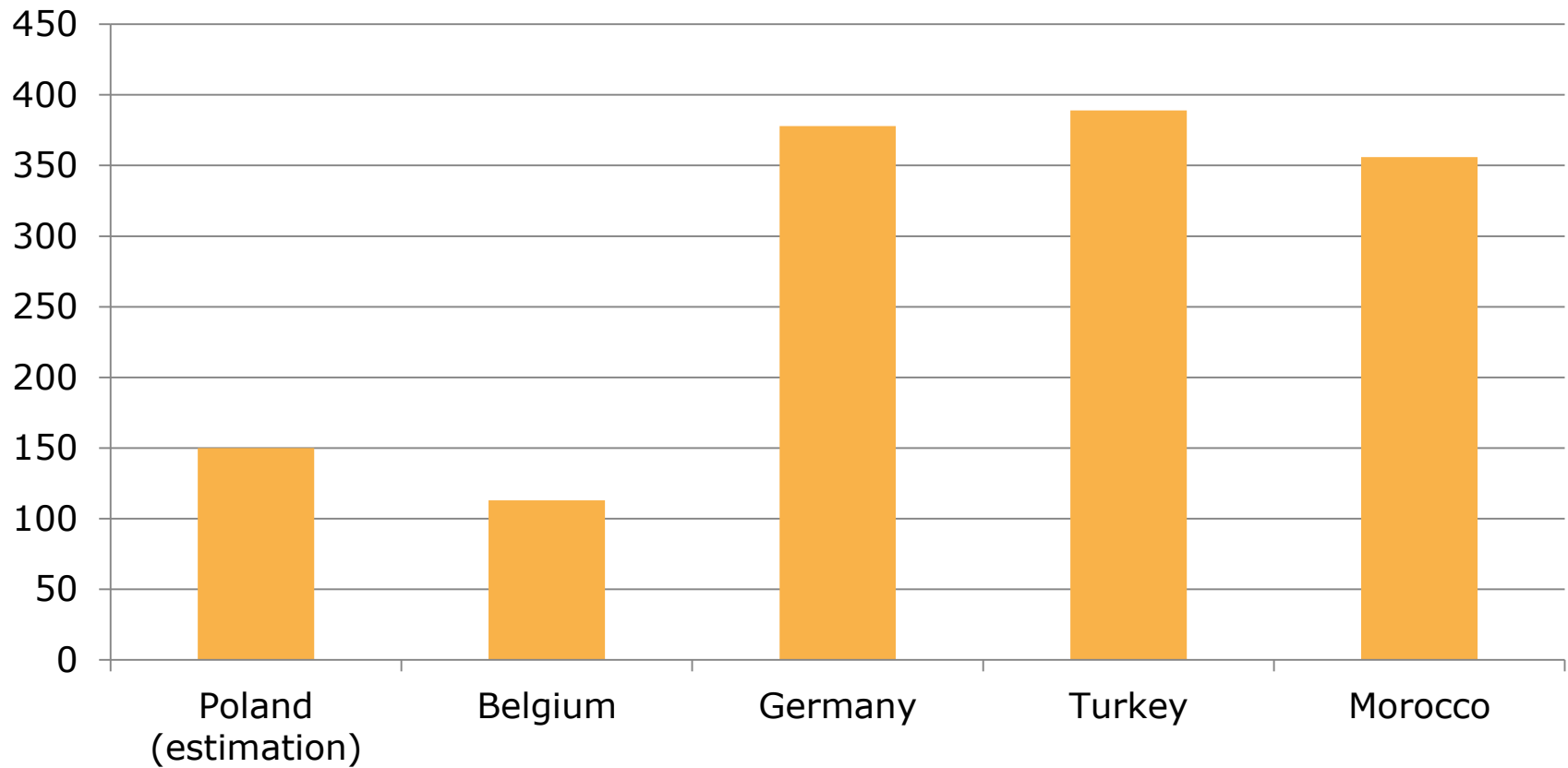
Pitfalls for research on Polish population

- Municipality records:
base for demographic figures and drawing samples
- About half of the Poles living in the Netherlands are registered with the municipality
- Two research strategies: surveys and snowball sampling
- Surveys \approx settlement migrants
- Snowball sampling \approx temporary migrants



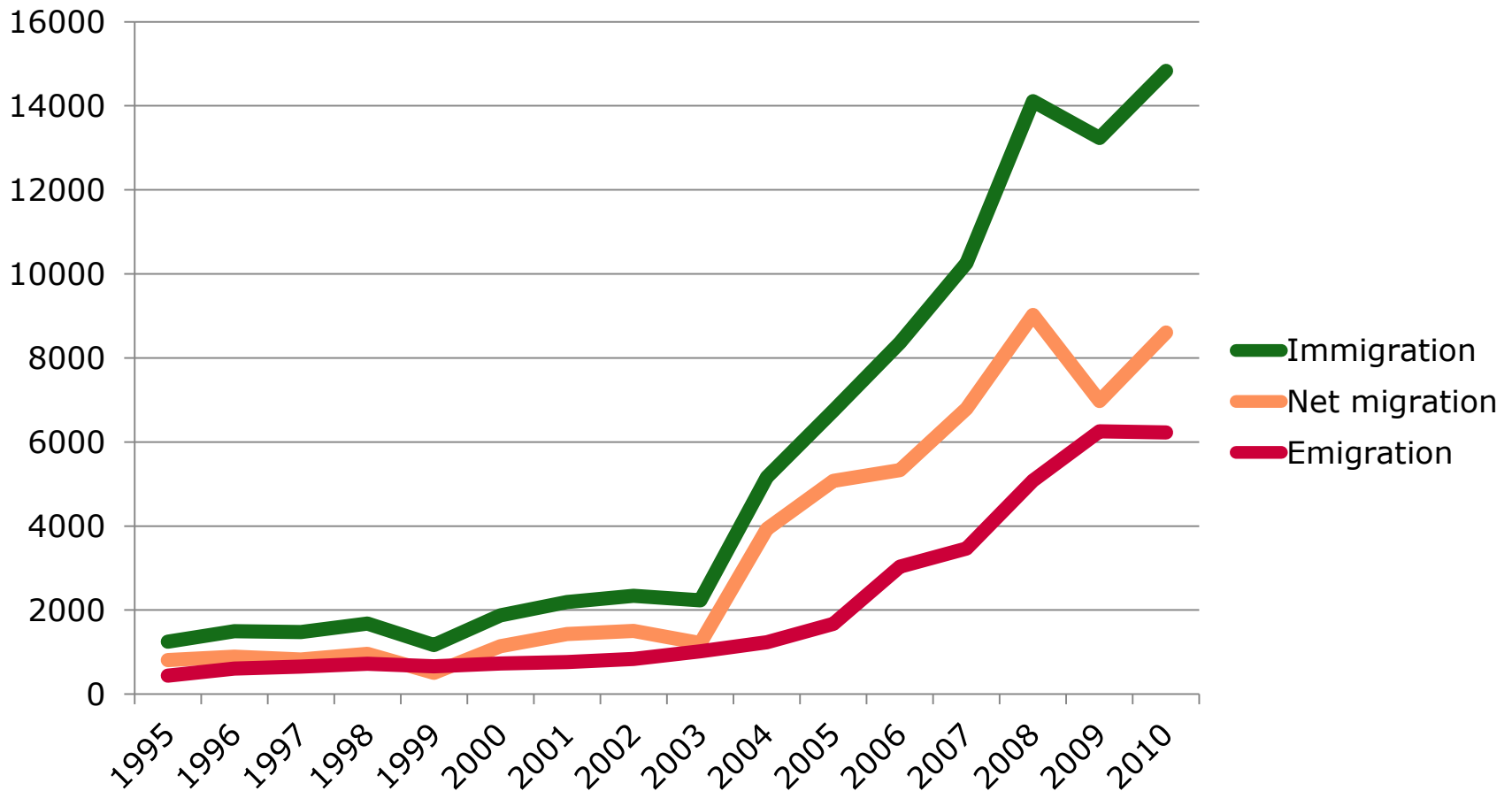
Migrant groups in the Netherlands (absolute numbers)

x 1000





Immigration & emigration, 1995-2010





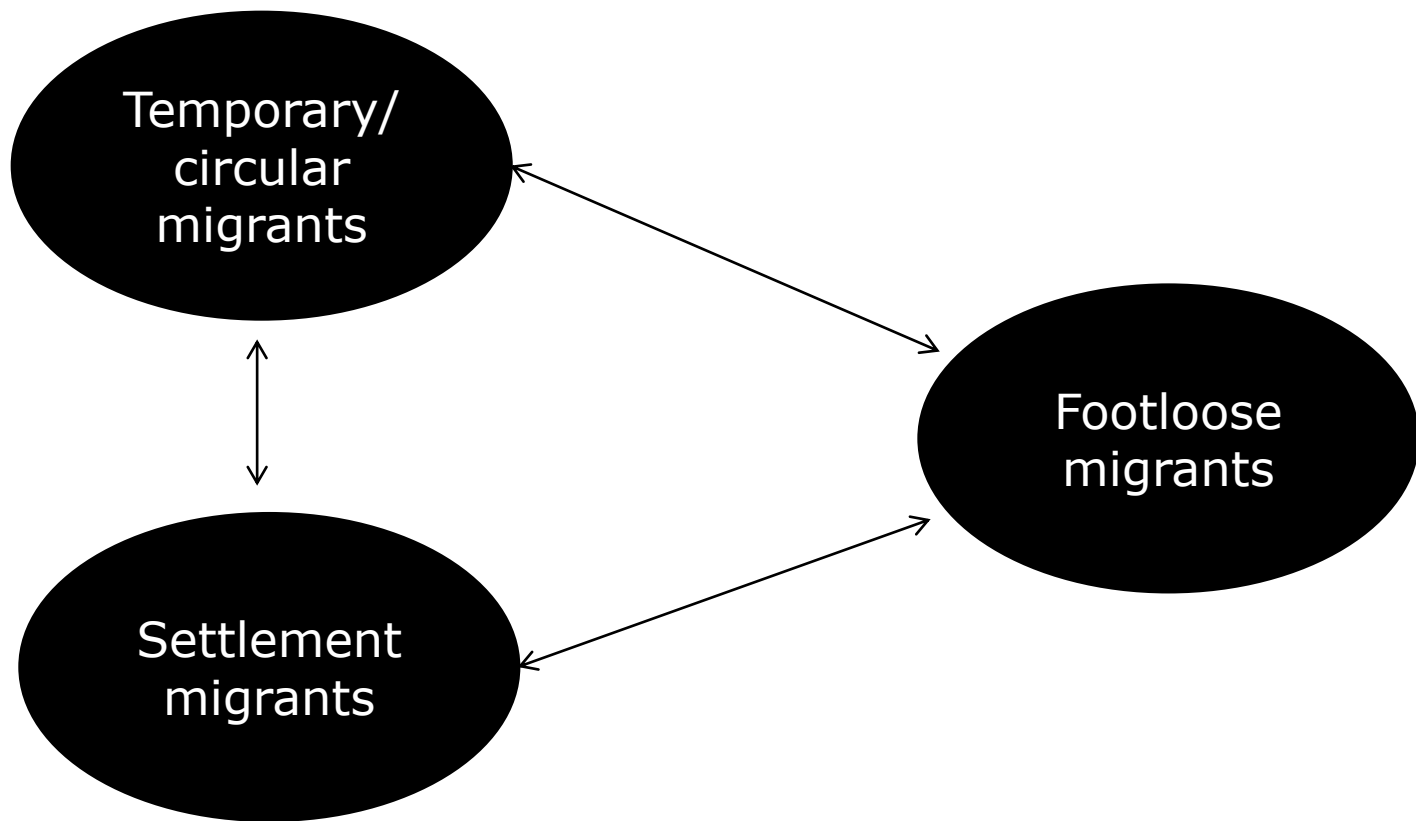
“Birds of Passage”

Some immigrants, called “birds of passage,” came to the United States to work, but did not intend to stay. When the American economy was strong, many Italian, Greek, Slavic, and British immigrants followed a seasonal pattern of migration. They came to the United States in the spring to find jobs in construction, agriculture, and mining, and returned home for the winter when most outdoor work shut down. Canadians and Mexicans, too, made frequent trips across the border – the Mexicans to harvest and plant crops in the Southwest; the Canadians to work in factories and textile mills in the North.

Birds of passage or settlers?

Polish migrants:

- Large proportion expect to remain for an extended period
- Temporary or circular migration important as well





Temporary/circular migrants



- Almost all in paid labour
- Hardly no unemployment
- Poor labour and housing conditions
- Not much social contact with Dutch people
- Limited command of Dutch language



Settlers

- Relatively favourable housing situation
- Ambition to integrate: language courses
- Often social contacts with Dutch
- Large proportion in paid work

- Vulnerable to unemployment (13%)





Footloose migrants

- Neither focused on Poland, nor on the Netherlands
- Lower levels of education
- Young
- High unemployment risk



Polish migrants in the Netherlands

Many Poles in paid work, big contribution to Dutch economy

Poor labour and housing conditions

Traffic violations, alcohol abuse and criminal behaviour

Vulnerable to unemployment → footloose migrants?

In general:

Position and integration of Poles not without its problems

Considerable potential: strong work ethics, level of education, health,
small social and cultural distance