

Parenthood, Language and Immigrant Women: Intersectional Disadvantages and Local Solutions to Gaps in Literacy and Education

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Nate Breznau, Selin Arusoglu, Johannes Bonnes, Sylvia Rahn, Carolin Seelmann

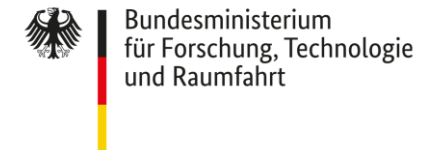


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Gefördert durch:



Grundbildungspfade – Basic Education Pathways Project

Funded from 2024-2028 at the German Institute for Adult Education (DIE)

- **Goals:**

- To push the EU Policy ‘Upskilling Pathways’ in Germany
- Inclusive learning through regional adult education networks
- Lifelong learning among low-skilled adults with limited formal education

- **Approach:**

- Organizational center for 10 regional projects: service, research and transfer support
- Combine secondary data analysis, regional project and stakeholder collaboration
- Promote local evidence-based education policies

Participation in Adult Learning and Education (ALE)

Stratification of ALE Participation

- Socioeconomic Status (formal education especially)
- Non-Native Speakers
- Women w/ Children
- Immigrants

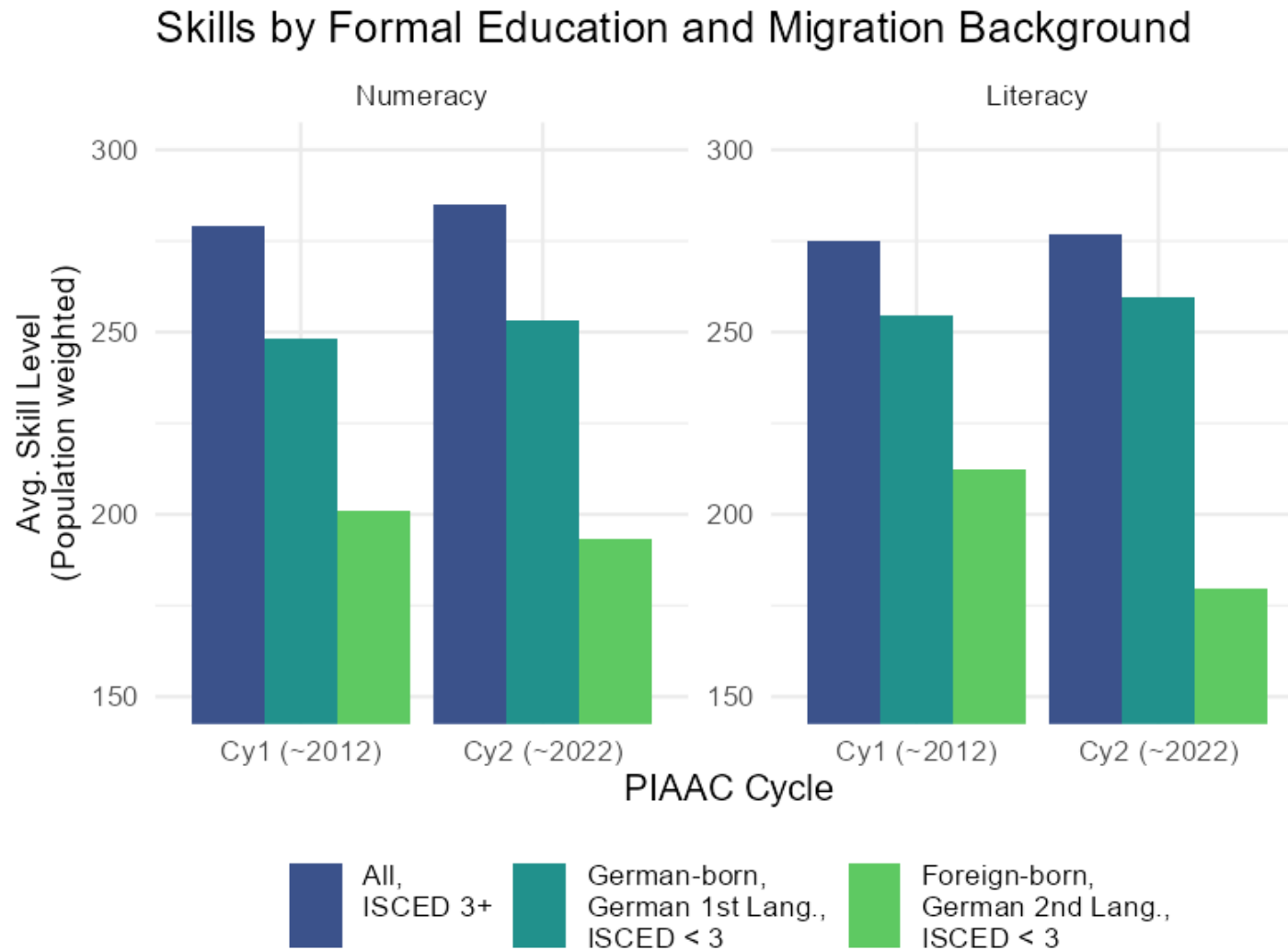
Intersectionality

- Disadvantage from overlapping social group memberships
- Multiplicative not additive

Programme International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

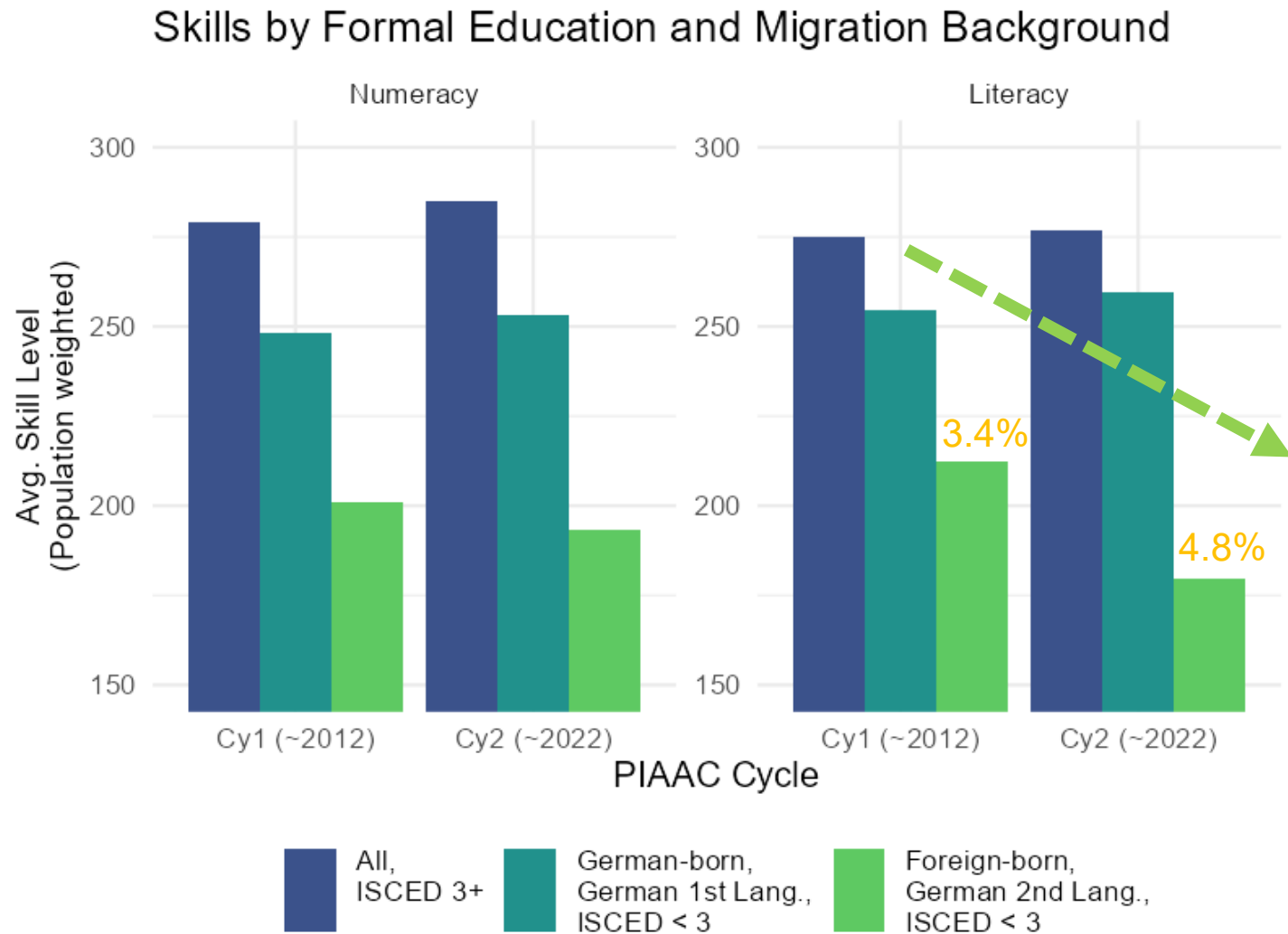
- 28 Countries, population representative samples
- Background questionnaire
- Literacy (0 to 500)
 1. Reads basic texts, no inferences 176-225
 2. Basic inferences and paraphrasing 226-275
 3. Paraphrasing, integration, compare and contrast 276-325
 4. Complex filtering, integration and evaluation 326-375
 5. Highly advanced, few limitations in reasoning 376-500

German example: declines in average migrant literacy skills over time



Breznau, DIE-Seminar
2025

German example: declines in average migrant literacy skills over time

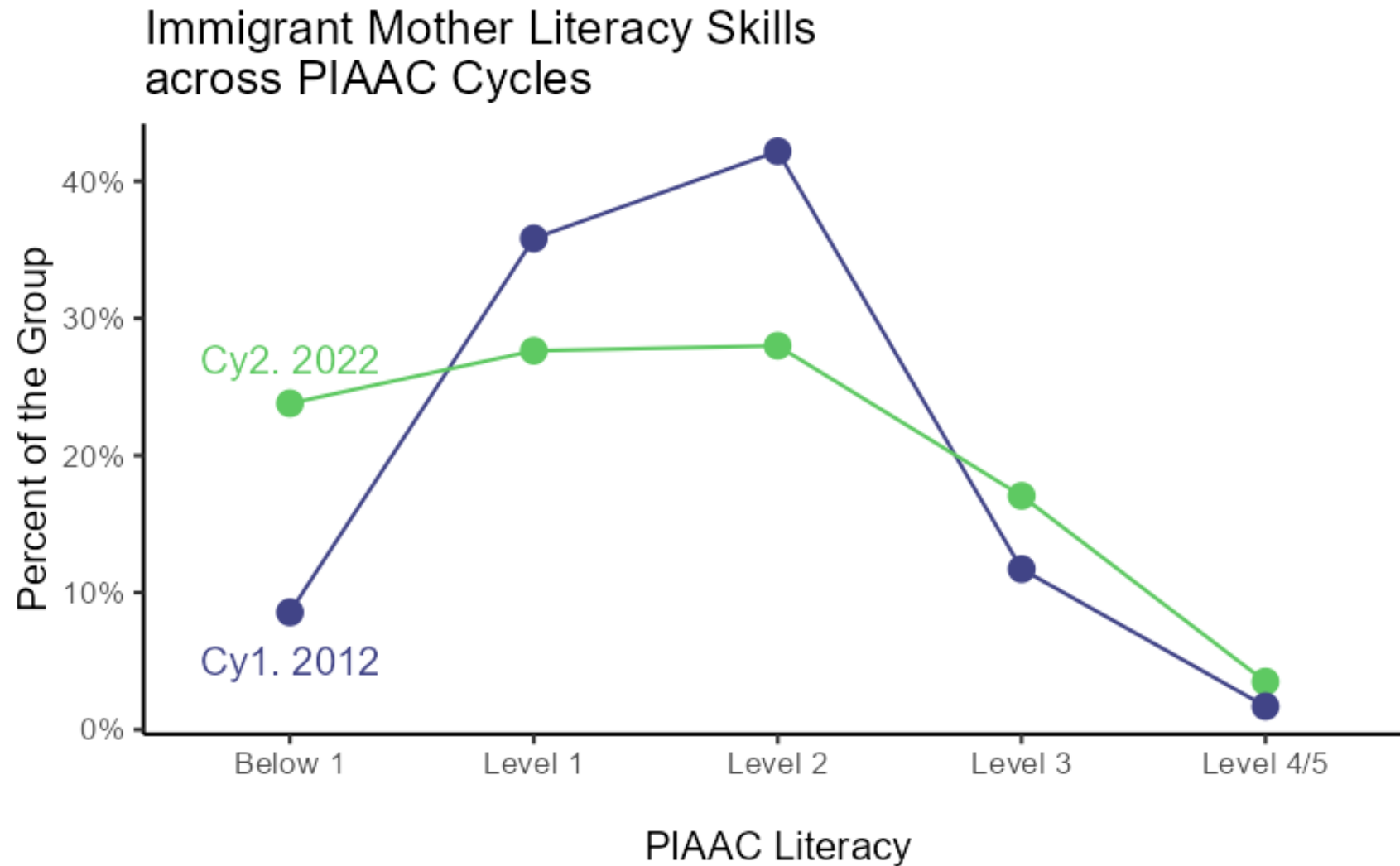


The wave of refugees mid-2010s led to lower avg. skills among lower educated migrants

Lower educated migrants went from 3.4% to 4.8% of the German population by 2022

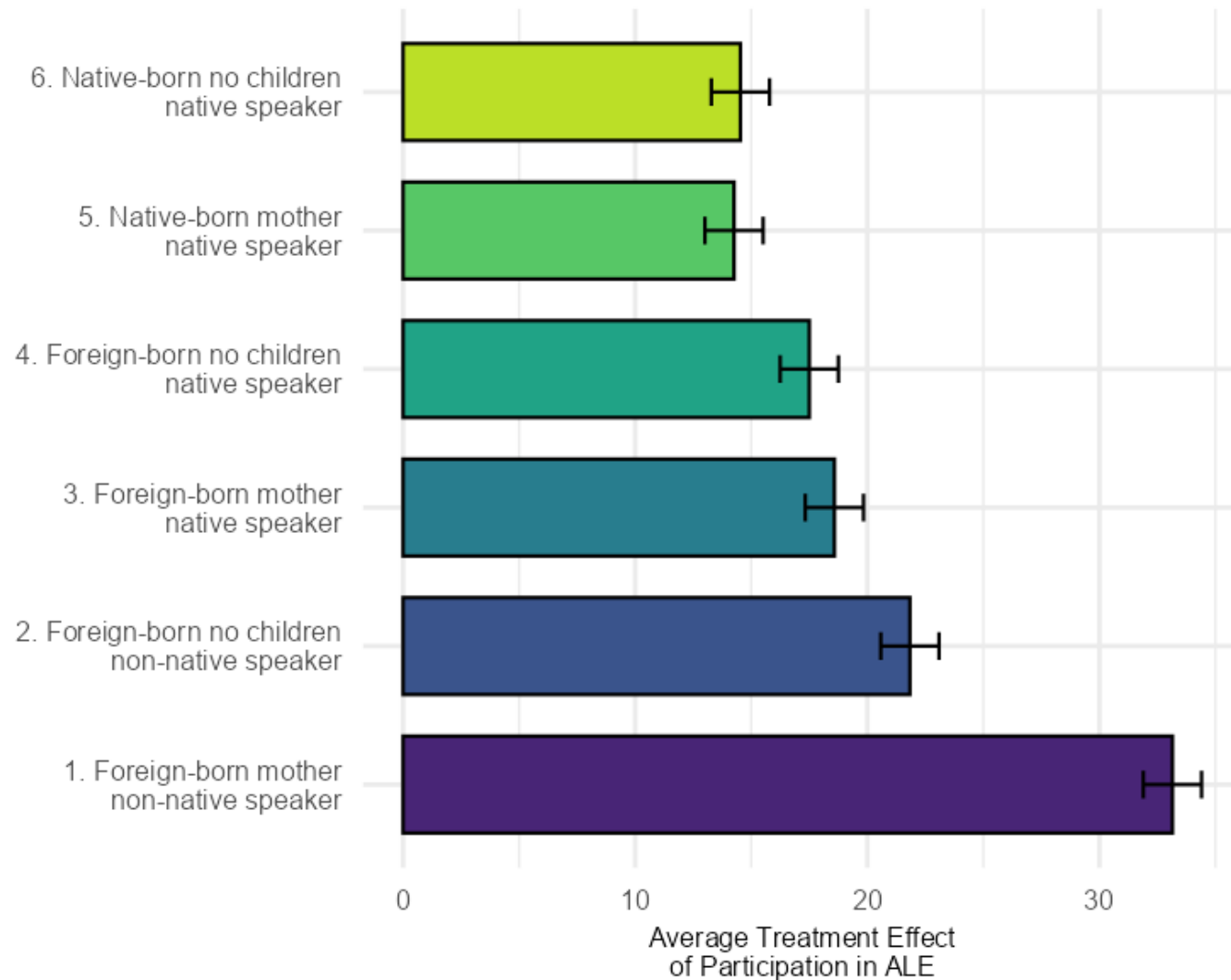
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Average Treatment Effect of Participation in Adult Learning on Literacy Skills for Women



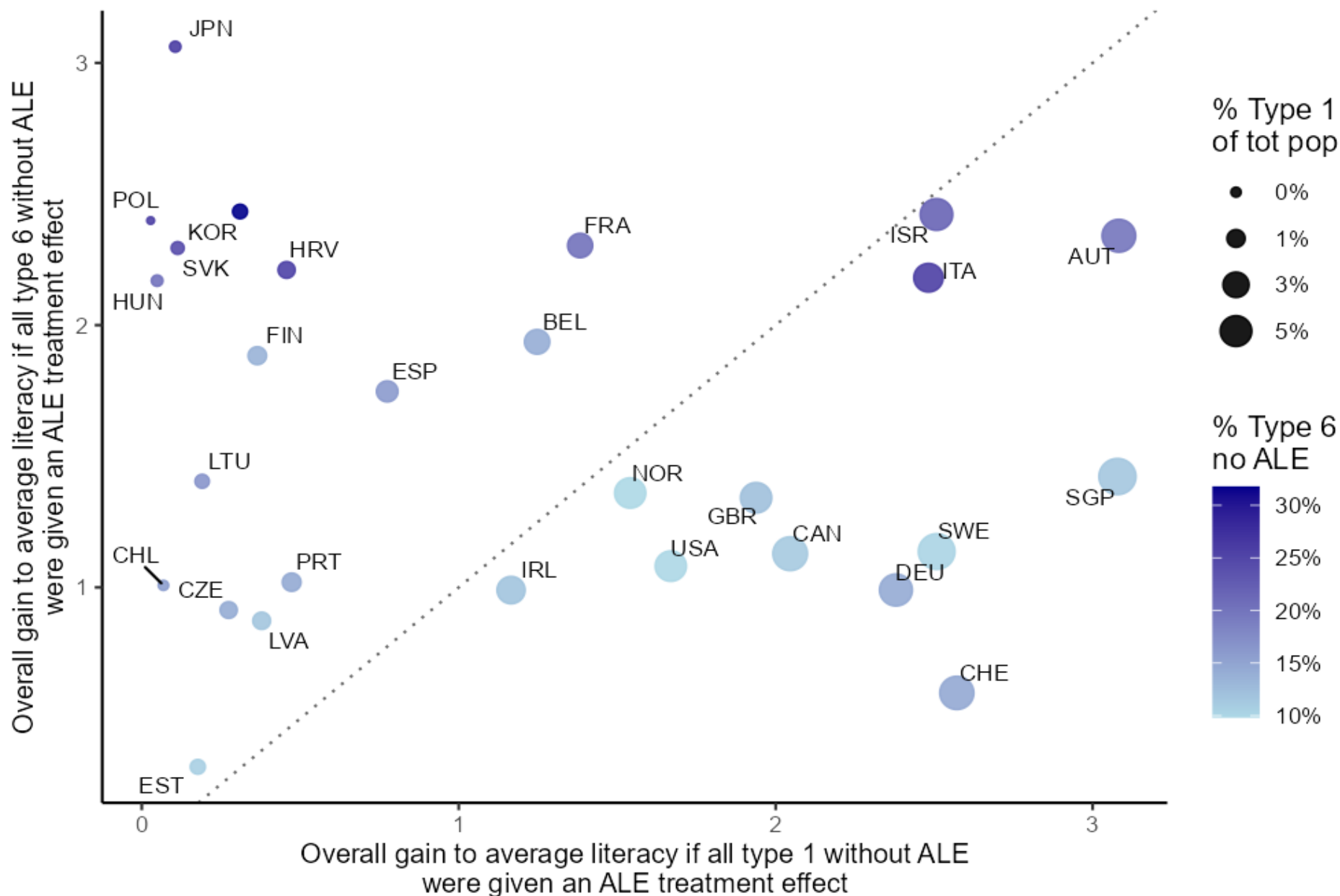
Intersectional impact of ALE on literacy score

ATE = fixing all values to 1 and 0 and predicting literacy for the entire sample

Simulated National Literacy Gains from Targeted ALE

Boost in average female literacy if all non-participants in each group joined ALE

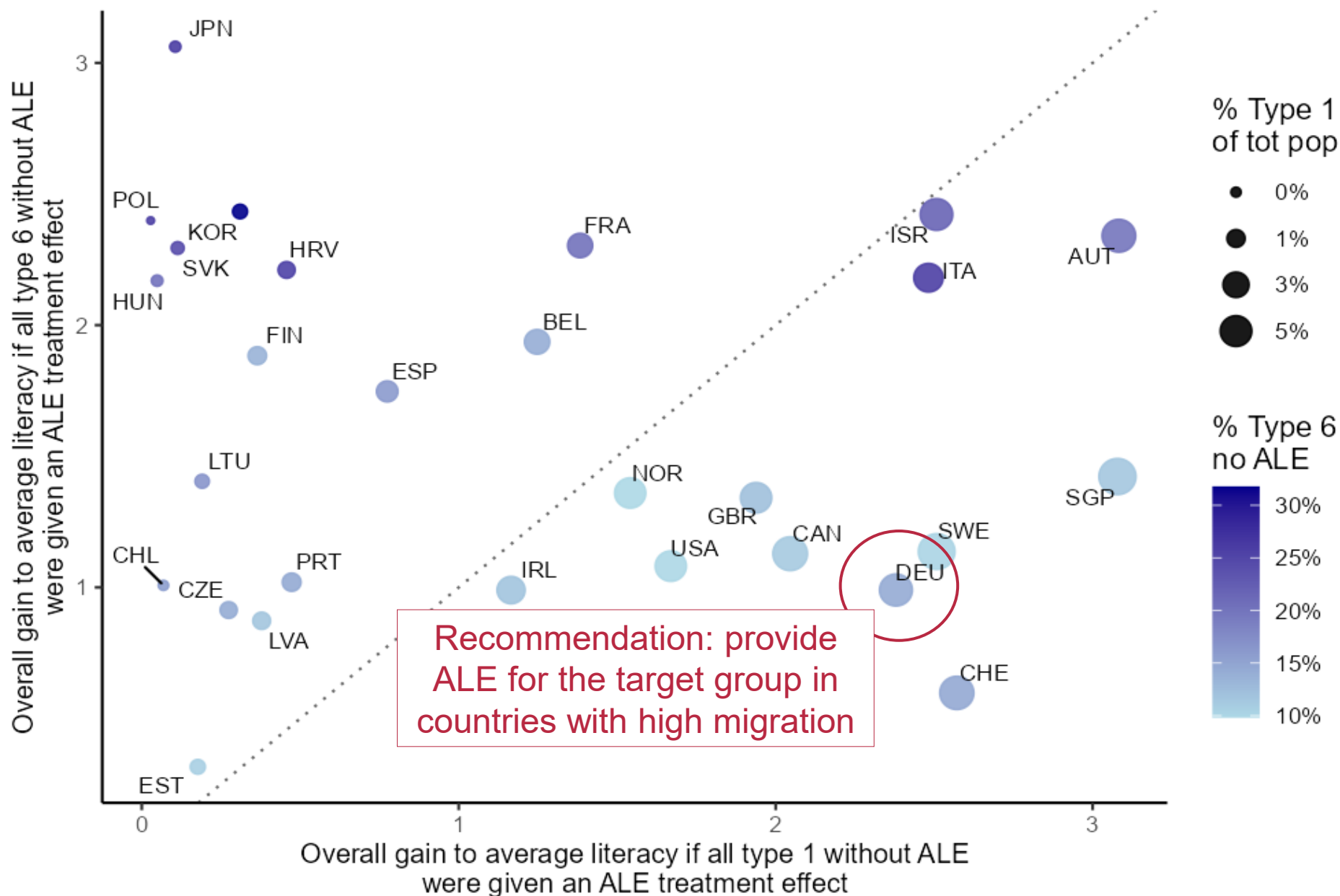
Predicted returns investments in ALE for natives (y-axis) compared with immigrant, non-native speaking mothers (x-axis).



Simulated National Literacy Gains from Targeted ALE

Boost in average female literacy if all non-participants in each group joined ALE

Predicted returns investments in ALE for natives (y-axis) compared with immigrant, non-native speaking mothers (x-axis).



Immigrant, Non-Native Speaking Mothers – Hard to Reach Target Group

Providing ALE for this target group is challenging

- Super heterogenous group
- Time constraints, caregiving, lack of support
- Limited visibility from institutions, employers and associations
- Language barriers and lower social trust
- Limited access to adult learning offers

Outreach can find them locally

- Through their children: Kindergartens, schools, pediatricians,
- Through their other needs: social services, job centers
- Community or cultural centers, churches

How to Reach the Target Group – Local Projects



NetzWege Project, as an example

Funded from 2024 to 2027 in Offenbach am Main, Germany

- Community partners
 - Arbeit und Leben Hessen
 - Bildungwek der Hessischen Wirtschaft
 - *Involas* Institut für berufliche Bildung, Arbeitsmarkt- und Sozialpolitik

Outreach can find them locally

- Data-based municipal education management (DKBM)
- Map local actors, identify unmet needs and existing offers
- Develop a qualitative picture of *personas* and *learner journeys*
- Launch pilot projects embedded in daily routines and community settings

Lasting Impact Through Localized Adult Learning Ecosystems

From project to practice

- Municipalities become learning communities
- Support labor market transitions
- Reduce dropout by integrating ALE into mother's daily lives

Scaling and sustainability

- Local policy briefs & training materials
- Community literacy networks and coordination staff
- Transferable models for other German regions

Thanks for your attention

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