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# TRANSWEL

Mobile Welfare in a Transnational Europe: An Analysis  
of Portability Regimes of Social Security Rights

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# The scope of the project

- **The TRANSWEL project analyses the policies, practices and limitations of portability**
- **Four country pairs: Hungary–Austria, Bulgaria–Germany, Poland–UK and Estonia–Sweden.**
- **Almost 18 million people residing in a different EU member state than the one they were born in**
- **The special legal status of EU migrants creates policy challenges (ECJ law vs. country regulations)**
- **Four aspects of social security: health insurance, unemployment benefit and family benefit, state pensions**

# General results from policy analysis

- **Three main types of condition shaping EU migrants access (portability) to social security:**
  - contributions requirements
  - residency conditions
  - institutional practices
- **Three types of problems:**
  - formal procedural requirements for accessing benefits
  - administrative discretion, especially in the interpretation of residency rules
  - differences between social security systems

# Swedish-Estonian case

- **Complex, challenging and opaque procedures in all Swedish policy areas**
- **Personal Identification Number (PIN) functions as a barrier**
- **Both systems residency based and disadvantage highly mobile migrants**
- **Estonian unemployment benefits beneficial for return migrants**

# Migrants experiences in Sweden

- **Big semi-legal market (especially in construction), illegal jobs in homeservice**
  - Results in challenges in accessing social benefits
  - Additionally migrants do not know their rights
- **Central importance of PIN- benefits work or residency related**
- **Accessing benefits works once people have PIN**

# More on migrants experiences

- **Problems in accessing benefits in untypical case**
- **Problems in porting the benefits in transnational cases**
- **Differences between Russian-speakers and Estonian-speakers in Sweden**
- **Language issues**
- **The idea of self-reliance (especially in the case of health care)**

# Conclusions

- **Contribution centred system in Sweden makes it difficult to access the country legally**
- **Complex procedures pose problems for migrants and for officials**
- **The problems in transnational communication between EST-SWE**
- **Neoliberal ideology and low levels of benefits in EST discourage migrants to apply**